

Whitehall moves to industry defended

By Richard Evans

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Judges refuse Tisdall leave to appeal against six months' jail

By Alan Hamilton

Sarah Tisdall, the Foreign Office clerk jailed for six months for leaking to *The Guardian* confidential documents on the arrival of cruise missiles, was refused leave to appeal against her sentence yesterday.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Boreham and Lord Justice Stephen Brown, ruled that the sentence was right in principle and that she was exactly the type of offender at whom deterrence was aimed.

Hence the necessity for section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, or, if not that provision, something in similar vein.

Lord Lane described Tisdall as an intelligent, well educated woman who had signed the Official Secrets Act in 1980. It would seem strange if a woman of her intelligence had not studied the documents with great care before divulging them.

of great public interest, the arrival of cruise missiles.

She had neither sought nor achieved any gain, yet her penalties had already been severe.

"The facts place this offence at the very bottom of the scale of culpability within section 2 of the Official Secrets Act", Mr Mathew said.

Tisdall, aged 23, was brought from Holloway prison, where she has spent the 17 days since her conviction at the Central Criminal Court, but did not appear in court to hear Mr John Mathew QC argue her case.

Her parents and fiancé sat impassively in court throughout the 40-minute hearing, and were disappointed and distressed when Lord Lane delivered his ruling after a 10-minute adjournment.

He said: "Laws are there to be obeyed. The fact that an individual disapproves of a law does not mean that that individual will escape prosecution or, if committed, escape punishment."

It is a dangerous arrogance for anyone, whether Foreign Office clerk or national newspaper, to decide which laws they will obey and which they will not.

Mr Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, said the sentence had been regarded as severe across a wide spectrum of political opinion.

His newspaper remained willing to offer any help it could to Miss Tisdall or her family.

Mr Preston appealed for Tisdall to be moved to an open prison, which would be normal for a first offender of good character. With one-third remission, Tisdall can expect to be released in mid-July.

"I think it is a sad day for Sarah and for British justice. If there had been an element of mercy it would have resolved the dilemma that is in everyone's conscience. We all have that dilemma. Justice plus mercy would have been better."

"I thought, politically, that the sentence would have been reduced by a little bit."

It was plain, he said, that at least one of the documents leaked by Tisdall was security-sensitive. He drew the distinction between the threat to security from an outside foe, and the threat from dissension within Britain.

Mr Mathew argued that Tisdall had merely been incensed by what she considered political subterfuge on a matter

Mr Larry Gostin, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said: "What the Court of Appeal is trying to do is to deter people who conscientiously believe that the public should have information."

"The Official Secrets Act is being used to protect government decision-making rather than national security."

Mr David Winnick, a Labour MP who has visited Tisdall in jail, said: "The decision seems wrong and that is a view accepted by the majority of people in this country."

Sarah Tisdall: "Deterrent sentence was needed"

Parliament, page 4

Trade in colour TVs up by 20%

The number of colour television sets delivered to traders increased last year by a fifth compared with the previous year. A total of 3.49 million sets were delivered in 1983, and a record half a million sets were sold in December alone (Our Commercial Editor writes).

But sales of video recorders during the fourth quarter of 1983 fell by 40 per cent compared with the corresponding period in 1982, according to the latest research by the British Radio and Electronic Equipment Manufacturers' Association.

It puts deliveries of video recorders for the whole year at a similar level to those in 1982. That was because deliveries during the first half of 1983 were sharply up on the year before. In 1983, 2.23 million sets were delivered.

\$250,000 for crash rider

Mr Peter Spence, aged 28, who will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair because of a road accident in 1981, was awarded £250,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Spence, a composer of Devises, Wiltshire, lost control of his motor cycle after riding over potholes in New Barnet, north London, and hit a bus stop, which fell on him. The agreed damages will be paid by the London Borough of Barnet, the highway authority, which denied liability.

Carrier sails on final voyage

The aircraft carrier HMS Bulwark makes her final voyage today. The 28,000-ton ship, which Britain used during the Suez crisis and which gave the Harrier Jump Jet its first trials, begins a four-day trip to Cairnryan Shipyard in Dunfermline and Galloway, where she will be broken up.

For the past three years she has been anchored in Portsmouth harbour.

Town clerk gets pigeon post

The Town Clerk of Bude, Cornwall, Major Edward Camilleri, has been appointed secretary of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association, whose headquarters are at Cheltenham. He succeeds Major Len Lewis, who retires next March.

Major Camilleri, who has a lot of racing pigeons, is president of the West of England Continental Amalgamation. The association has 120,000 members.

Telecom train

A British Telecom exhibition train is to tour Britain to encourage telephone subscribers to buy shares when 51 per cent of the corporation is sold in the autumn.

Hereditary link aids cancer diagnosis

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Earlier diagnosis and treatment of bowel cancer, which kills about 17,000 people in Britain a year, may soon be possible through a new joint project involving cancer experts and surgeons.

About one person in forty is likely to contract the disease, the second most common cancer, but there has been no important advance towards a cure since 1908, one of the surgeons said yesterday.

Research at St Mark's Hospital, London, has shown that there is almost certainly a hereditary link with a rare form of the disease, and scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund hope to be able to predict which members of a family are at risk.

Preventive surgery has been successful on such patients at St Mark's. The target is to apply the hereditary research to predict people generally at risk.

A greater awareness of the disease's symptoms, including bleeding from the rectum, among family doctors as well as

the public, is being encouraged, Mr John Northover, consultant surgeon at St Mark's said.

"We need to diagnose bowel cancer much earlier. The average time between the onset of symptoms and the patients realising it is six months, and that is too long."

Mr David Innes Williams, chairman of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, announced that the fund is to set up a laboratory with the Royal College of Surgeons to develop and apply biological techniques, linked to histological methods, for the diagnosis of cancer.

A £2m extension is to be added to the fund's breast cancer unit at Guy's Hospital, London.

But Mr John Hayward, director of the Hedley Atkins unit, which has pioneered a breast cancer treatment which does not involve removal of breasts, gave a warning yesterday that research would be impeded by health service cash cuts. The unit has had to close nine of its 36 beds.

PCs fined for aiding senior

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Three police officers who let their drunken superior go after a motorway accident were fined yesterday by their chief constable. After fining the men, who were not named, Mr David East, Chief Constable of South Wales, said: "Confidence in the police is a paramount importance."

The officers had helped their superior by arguing not to give him a breath test or arrest him despite being certain that

he was drunk after he had crashed his car into a traffic bollard.

The disciplinary action came after the appearance at Cardiff Magistrate's Court last month of Geoffrey Squire, a former police superintendent, Squire, aged 44, who had been retired from the force a week before his appearance on the ground of ill health with a pension of £12,000 a year, was fined £250 and banned for a year.

Healers want study of cataracts

Healing organizations have offered to fund a joint study with the British Medical Association to establish whether faith and spiritual healing can influence cataracts.

The proposal has been put by the Confederation of Healing Organizations to the association's working party on complementary medicine which is examining how the effectiveness of "alternative" medical treatments can be assessed.

Mr Denis Haviland, chairman of the confederation whose affiliates have 7,000 healers in membership, said: "We want healing to be measured scientifically and believe that cataracts offer the opportunity to establish whether there is a power of healing."

Cataracts were progressive, did not improve spontaneously, and were not treated by doctors until the point at which surgery was needed.

Medical photographs of patients' eyes before and after treatment by a healer could be assessed by doctors

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In the master's footsteps: Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour's current leader, at Lord Attlee's one-time home in Monkham Avenue, Woodford, east London. Yesterday, Mr Kinnock, seen with the present occupant, Mrs Olive Fisher, unveiled a blue plaque at the house, Attlee's only London address, other than Tynbee Hall, still standing (Photograph: John Manning)

Computers 'used only for games'

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

Disillusionment among middle-class parents who have observed little educational benefit from home computers bought for their children could seriously affect future growth of the market, a survey concludes.

The study, by Gallup/Marketing Direction, says: "We know that middle-class parents are the main purchasers of home computers and that they are bought to give their children an advantage over other children in the longer term. The advantage accrues, so they believe, as a result of their children learning to program and even doing their homework on the machine."

'Talking tickets' could cut queues

By David Cross

Those long queues of commuters clicking their heels at Underground and railway exits as they wait to show their season tickets could disappear overnight if an invention pioneered by an electronics firm in Slough catches on.

Instead of buying a conventional cardboard season ticket, a commuter would buy a small plastic tag no bigger than a watch. That would be coded with such details as the commuter's name, destination, and the period for which the ticket is valid.

Electricity resale criticized

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Overcharging by landlords for electricity has become such a problem that Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, is considering whether it should be made illegal.

Sir Gordon, who yesterday brought out a consultative paper on possible remedies, said that overcharging tended to affect the elderly, low-income families, students, and holiday-makers.

Landlords who resell electricity are allowed to charge extra, with a daily availability charge built in to recoup the initial expenditure of installing a meter and the standing charge.

Charging beyond the maximum rates laid down by area electricity boards is not a criminal offence.

The report says surcharges could be prohibited so that tenants paid the going rate; "service" element due to the landlord would then be built into the rent or site fee.

Resale of Electricity by Landlords (available from OFT, Room 517, Changery House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SP).

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£2,600 for soccer fan assaulted by police

Mr Robert Connor, a Chelsea football supporter, was awarded £2,658 damages against the police yesterday over an assault by a constable at a football match. He was the victim of an "over-reaction" by Police Constable Robert Drew, who split his head open with a truncheon, a High Court judge ruled in London.

Pe Drew, "6ft 4in tall with a build appropriate to his height", failed to distinguish between Mr Connor and "hostile" Chelsea supporters who had travelled to the away game against Cambridge United in September, 1979, Mr Justice French said.

Mr Connor, aged 24, of Eastfield Parade, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, was a moderate and sensible man, the judge said. He was pushed forward by 500 supporters trying to get into the all-ticket match and was confronted by Pe Drew, who inflicted a wound needing 13 stitches.

The judge said he did not believe the police account of the incident. The award to Mr Connor, against the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, included £500 exemplary damages over the way the police handled his complaint.

PC Drew, of Wrans Close, Ealing, west London, had said he intended to hit Mr Connor's arm because he and other supporters were trying to separate a police dog handler from his dog. But the judge said that explanation of such a serious injury was "completely unacceptable".

Mr Drew "over reacted when he thought he was confronted by a host of hooligans and struck out at the man nearest to him", the judge said. "He failed to distinguish between those riotously determined to get in at all costs and those irresistibly borne forward by the throng."

The truncheon blow "went far beyond reasonable self-defence or the defence of a brother officer and far beyond the reasonable prevention of a criminal offence or a breach of the peace".

The judge said there was a "marked shortage" of evidence relating to the police's own internal investigation of the incident, which resulted in a decision to take no disciplinary action against PC Drew.

Outside the court Mr Connor said he had hardly been to a football match since he was injured. He had given up playing the game because he could no longer head the ball.

ANNOUNCING

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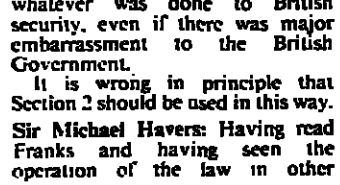
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Company _____

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Attorney General, he will find that each was a case which was absolutely justified. The catch-all provisions are only dangerous when employed by a Government to prosecute a case where prosecutions are unnecessary. I am proud of the record while I have been Attorney General. I have used Section 2 very



Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Emergency debate on policing in connexion with the miners' strike. Finance (No 2) Bill, second reading. **Lords (2.30):** Tenants' Rights, Etc (Scotland) Amendment Bill, report. Debate on the cost of drugs.

Those who said rates on industry did not matter, they were a small part of turnover, should get out into the real world and talk to those who actually paid the rates. They would say that rates could make the difference between staying in business and going out of it.

Lord Harris of High Cross (Ind) said in the absence of radical reforms to contain capital spending he supported the Government in its efforts to set some limits on what he regarded as local political pickpockets.



Bottomley: Negation of a long tradition.

government. There were problems of finance but they were much too urgent to wait for lengthy discussions on possible reform.

Action had to be taken now to restrain some of the crass irresponsibility displayed by some local authorities for which ordinary

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party: Will the debate be a narrow one or a wide one? Will it be limited to the matters raised by Mr McKay or to more primary issues affecting the mining dispute itself?

The Speaker: The motion will be on the application that I have granted.

The only project currently before me (he said) is electrification of the East Coast main line worth £240m.

Mr Prescott: The reduction of over a third of the investment level, at BR's request, has led to exposing the charge that BR has sufficient funds for investment.

The BR system is under-invested.

The fact that BR is not investing more is not a sign of absence of viability. It is only proper to make investment when a viable project is identified which can benefit from it.

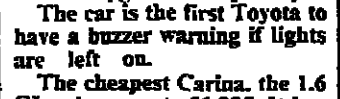
The Feed Trade Associations has given and carried out an undertaking to emphasise to its members the importance of ensuring as far as they can that none of the contaminated materials are used in

On tracing consignments, he had thought the best way to do this was through the discussions with the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trades Association Ltd. and with the British Poultry Federation

He could think of no likely circumstance in which it would be required to use the power in the Bill to increase the proportion from the rates, but it would have been silly not to have it so that primary legislation was needed. There was

The opposition new clause was rejected by 260 votes to 164 - a Government majority of 96.

Echoes of a people, whose young were to mimic wolves and bears so that they might become warriors and child-



But yesterday a legion spokesman said there were no

about the case of Geoffrey Prime, the linguist convicted of spying for the Soviet Union.

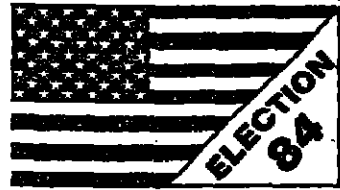
Minister to fend off parliamentary questions about GCHQ funding. Since the late 1940s, when the continuation of

analysts have access to nearly all the product in return for between 15 and 20 per cent of the cost.

But it is all techniques and technicalities and not much policy or management: it is totally self-consuming.

Three Mile Island atom plant should stay closed, Mondale says

From Christopher Thomas, Philadelphia



Mr Walter Mondale wants the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania to stay permanently shut. He made the announcement on board a tugboat in the Delaware river as it swayed gently in the shadow of four giant cooling towers - landmarks of Three Mile Island, site of the worst accident in the history of commercial nuclear power.

His declaration was the climax of several steadily hardening criticisms of the plant during campaigning for the Democratic presidential primary in Pennsylvania today. It will be an undoubted vote-catcher.

Mr Mondale made his announcement with a certain panache. He flew to Philadelphia from a campaign tour of Pittsburgh, drove to the Sonoma marine docks near the Philadelphia naval shipyard, and boarded his hired tugboat, the Devon. He said the authorities had refused to let him into the plant.

He positioned himself so that the cooling towers were nicely in the background, smiled to 20

newspaper photographers and a group of television crews, and said that at least the high seas were free.

Several residents of towns close to Three Mile Island were present to receive his words. "If the owners of Three Mile Island came to you and asked for a licence to drive a car, you would not give them one after what they have done," he said.

"What strange logic, then, justifies giving them a licence to run a nuclear power plant when a meltdown could kill thousands of people? Based on what we know Three Mile Island should not be allowed to reopen."

Unit One of the plant was shut down in March, 1979, when the Unit Two reactor was crippled by an accident. The possible restart of Unit One is a

subject of passionate controversy across the state, as well as a national issue. As Mr Mondale talked, he was watched from a distance by plant guards behind a chain link fence.

Senator Gary Hart has kept clear of the Three Mile Island affair in his campaign for Pennsylvania, except to say that decisions about its future should not be made as a vote-catcher.

He has concentrated on jobs and steel. With obvious reference to his main rival, he scoffed: "I may not jump every time the leadership of the AFL-CIO (the trade union organization) jerks my chain but I am not sure that is what working people want."

Later, he was to be found at the Children's Museum in Philadelphia, answering grave questions about democracy and taxes while sitting with a teddy bear on his lap. His audience was comprised of 25 reporters, a group of parents and a giggling band of 30 children wearing elephants' heads, clowns' hats and firemen's helmets.

Heath starts Third World water project

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, yesterday launched a new international effort to help Third World countries develop water supply and sanitation facilities by inviting multinational companies to support the Water Decade Realization Fund.

He was, he said, giving his support to the project because its aims were in line with those of the Brandt Commission (on which Mr Heath served) and of the United Nations water fund, which has set 1990 as the target date for improving water supplies in the Third World.

"It is right that this initiative should be launched here in Africa, whose manifold problems are exacerbated by drought. Perhaps 28 million people in Africa will need to be saved from starvation this year. The consequences of failure are too appalling to contemplate," he said.

Mr Heath added that he was confident that many multination-

al companies would support the initiative. It was in their own interest, as well as that of mankind, to help developing countries overcome their problems.

The new fund's trustees are headed by Mr William Clark, president of the International Institute for Environment and Development.

In Khartoum last week, Dr Chedli Ayari, president of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa accepted an invitation to join the trustees, and yesterday Mr Jeremiah Nyagah, also joined them.

Three British firms - Allied Lyons, Mono Pumps (of Manchester) and Northern Engineering Industries (of Newcastle) - have financed the launch of the new fund. Its supporters are now appealing to large firms throughout the world for support, and say they expect to raise at least £1m in the first phase.



Symbols of unity: The Queen and President Mitterrand (right) at yesterday's opening.

Royal send-off for Torus

From Our Correspondent, Oxford

The Queen opened a Jet (Joint European Torus) nuclear fusion project at Culham in Oxfordshire yesterday amid a glittering display of European unity.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, performed the ceremony in the cavernous hall where the equipment which could one day reproduce the Sun's energy assembled.

An audience of 1,700 Jet staff and high-ranking representatives of the 12-nations taking part in the project watched as she pressed the button opening a 300-ton door leading to the doughnut-shaped Torus machine.

The Queen then unveiled the plaque marking the official

start of one of the leading research projects into producing energy by nuclear fusion.

She praised the efforts of scientists from the 10 EEC countries, Switzerland and Sweden.

"All of us here today may have a tale to tell our grandchildren when we say we attended the unveiling of Jet and witnessed the beginning of the new technological advance," she said.

"In an energy-hungry age Jet may be a step along the road to unlimited electric power."

The Queen added a special word of welcome to President Mitterrand, who stood by her side. He marked the eightieth anniversary of the signing of

the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France.

Mr Mitterrand said that it was through such agreements that Europe could be built.

The value of European unity was also touched on by Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the EEC Commission.

"Only the Community is able to promote these large-scale schemes which would be too much for any one country to bear," he said.

Scientists are trying to produce energy inside the machine by running atoms of hydrogen together using 800 megawatts of electricity to produce helium.

The £350m project was started at Culham five years ago.

Guinea pledges no executions

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

The new President of Guinea, Colonel Lansana Conté, has announced that there will be no executions and no political trials of members of the late President Sekou Touré's regime. However, all of them were now under arrest and some would face administrative and economic charges.

The President, who is 50, stated that the military regime would remain in power until racialism, sectarianism and regionalism had been eliminated in the country.

It was also announced that the banking sector would be

opened to private enterprise to give a much needed boost to the economy, and that the military regime was in favour of a free press and free trade unions.

These moves are seen by observers here as a sign of the regime's pro-Western leanings.

The press has been invited to visit the notorious Camp Boiro prison in Conakry the Guinean capital. All political prisoners detained there were released when the military seized power last Tuesday. Reports of deaths, torture and maltreatment in the prison are now emerging.

A reform of the education

system has been called for, with a return to teaching in French. The large Guinean exile community in Senegal has announced its support for the new regime.

● ABIDJAN: The leader of a failed revolt against President Biva of Cameroon has been caught. Yaounde radio said (Reuters reports). The radio, monitored here, quoted the official newspaper, the *Cameroun Tribune*, as saying that Colonel Ibrahim Saleh, of the paramilitary Republican Guard, had been arrested and the hunt for other rebels was continuing.

European anger in Macao threatens stability of enclave

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

A political struggle between the Governor, Vice-Admiral Vasco Almeida e Costa, and the Portuguese-speaking ruling class in Macao, the Portuguese enclave on mainland China opposite Hongkong, threatens to turn Macao into another pocket of instability in the area.

Admiral Almeida e Costa, who began his term of office in 1981, is the fourth governor since the 1974 revolution in Portugal. At that time the new Portuguese Government offered Macao back to China.

China under Portuguese administration, but it is economically dependent on both China and Hongkong although it is under the political domination of Peking.

Admiral Almeida has met local opposition because he is bent on stamping out what he calls "the colonial mentality of the entrenched groups" and giving more say in running Macao to the Chinese, who represent 97 per cent of the 300,000 residents.

He is vigorously opposed by European Portuguese and the Macanese, the locally-born Portuguese, who are a minority, but who controlled the legislative assembly until it was dissolved in February. They fear the passing of the older order and the disappearance of their privileges.

In February the Governor pushed through a law to extend voting rights to all Chinese, Portuguese, Macanese and other foreign residents irrespective of how long they have resided in Macao. Residence is being offered to people who make substantial investments in the territory.

When the Assembly wanted to amend his decrees without his final approval, the Governor called on President Eanes in Lisbon to dissolve the Assembly on February 28. Admiral

Almeida then returned to Portugal "on official business".

In the heated aftermath, three leading delegates to the dissolved assembly, who have connections with the Socialists and Christian Democrats in Portugal, came to Lisbon to put their case before the President and the Government. They demanded that the Governor be dismissed on grounds that he was too authoritarian and corrupt.

"The reason for the row" said the delegates, who included former President of the Assembly Senhor Carlos d'Assumpção, "is the Governor's intention to grab absolute power and prevent any criticism."

The delegates were received by the President and Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, but received little backing. Lisbon's Socialist-Social Democratic Government, which is often at odds with President Eanes, did not want the political fight in Macao to spill over into Portugal and possibly damage relations with China.

Peking and the Chinese in Macao are keeping a low profile in the fight as they always have in the assembly. Peking is unlikely to encourage the Chinese in Macao to press for political self-determination as such a movement in Hongkong is already causing uneasiness in Peking and Macao serves as a gateway to the West for China.

Local Chinese are appealing for calm and watching keenly what is happening in Hongkong.

Admiral Almeida has now returned to Macao where he had called elections for July, hoping that the Chinese will vote and take on more responsibility. Only 4,000 people voted in the last elections.

He said in Lisbon that he plans to remain Governor until President Eanes leaves office in 1985.

Peking pampers press

Peking (Reuters) - China yesterday opened a stylish press club for foreign correspondents in Peking, which aims to encourage closer contact between foreign journalists and government spokesmen.

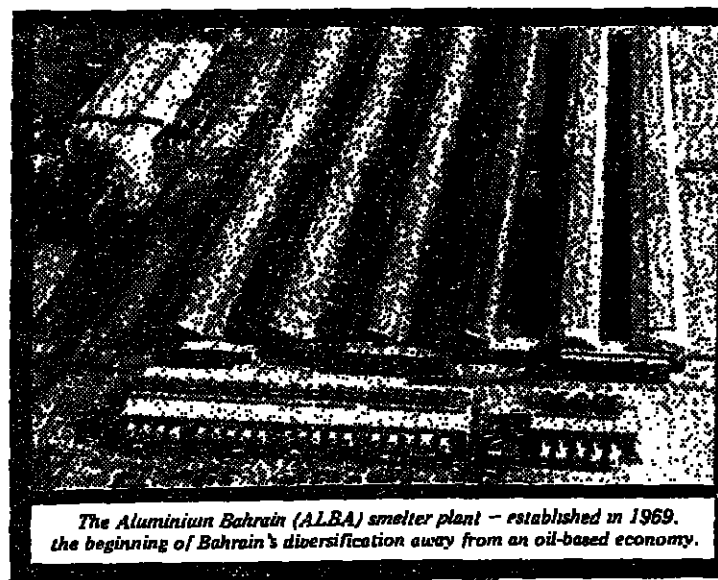
Only a year ago, all correspondents' questions had to be channelled through one telephone number at the Foreign Ministry.

In the new club, which has a bar, waitresses in bow ties and trouser suits glide between comfortable armchairs. The atmosphere contrasted sharply with the official obstacles placed in the way of contact between foreign correspondents and ordinary Chinese.

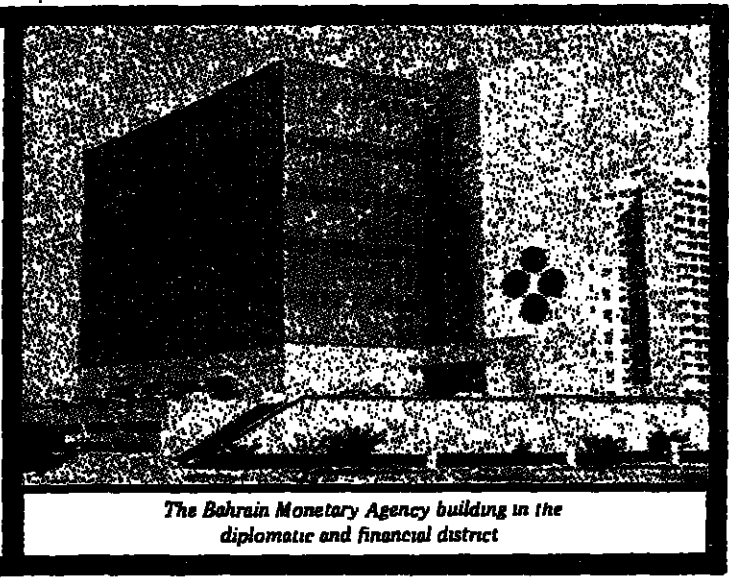
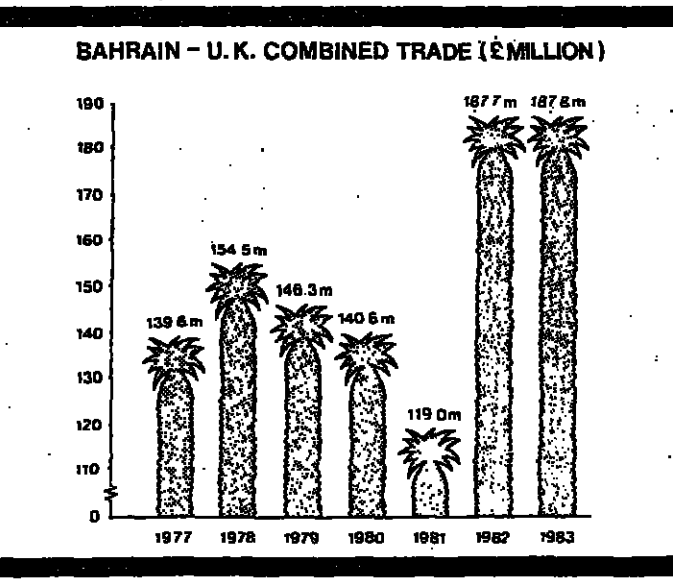
"Let's wait and see how free and easy it is. That is the real test," one foreign journalist said.

BAHRAIN and BRITAIN

- Linked by Traditional Bonds of Trade and Commerce



The Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA) smelter plant - established in 1969, the beginning of Bahrain's diversification away from an oil-based economy.



The Bahrain Monetary Agency building in the diplomatic and financial district.

Today, His Highness the Amir of Bahrain, Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifa begins an official four-day state visit to Britain at the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The visit will serve to reinforce the links of friendship and understanding which have long existed between our two nations.

Bahrain has been the Arabian Gulf's main trading centre for centuries, and Britain has long been a major partner in the Island's trade activity. The combined non-oil trade (imports plus exports) between our countries increased by 57.8% between 1981-83; the key British exports being machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, and chemicals and related goods. Bahrain has had a surplus in trade and in her overall balance-of-payments every year since 1979, and the country's growth in non-oil trade averaged 12% per annum between 1978-82. Thus, there are undoubtedly extensive opportunities in this thriving market.

Despite its limited area, population and natural resources, Bahrain now has a well developed and diversified economy, and is achieving enviable growth rates by current international standards. Bahrain's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.5% a year, on average, between 1980-83 and it is expected to rise by 5.5% during 1984/85. Bahrain's GDP per capita (US\$ 9740, 1981) also compares favourably with those of the world's developed economies.

Bahrain has a progressive and flexible attitude towards commerce and encourages foreign investment (there are no income taxes nor foreign exchange restrictions in Bahrain). A significant milestone on Bahrain's path of development and a prime factor in establishing Bahrain as an international financial centre, was the introduction of offshore-banking licences by the Bahrain Monetary Agency in 1975. The banking sector has expanded rapidly since this date, with over 70 offshore-banking units now operating (many of which are British), and has become the most important financial market in the non-industrialised world. The insurance sector is also expanding and Bahrain's reputation as a major commercial centre will be further enhanced by the establishment of the official stock exchange, the first stage of which has already been implemented.

In 1977 the Government of Bahrain passed an order creating a class of joint-stock companies exempt from the Commercial Companies Law, which is extremely advantageous for companies wishing to use Bahrain as their regional base from which they can serve the other countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council. The share capital of such "exempt companies" may be wholly owned by non-Bahrainis and the company cannot engage in business in Bahrain itself. The success of the move is illustrated by the fact that there are now more than 120 exempt companies operating from Bahrain.

In addition to its enlightened commercial outlook, Bahrain offers many other advantages to companies wishing to establish themselves in the region, or to do business with local companies. The country has a modern infrastructure and provides free welfare and social services. Bahrain enjoys advanced and reliable telecommunications facilities and is the gateway between east and west on international airline routes. It is a major educational and training centre for the Gulf region, and the home of the Arabian Gulf University - and it consequently has a well-trained labour force. There is a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in Bahrain, and the long-term presence of expatriates on the Island means that a wide range of amenities are available to meet their specific tastes, including shopping, sporting, social and entertainment services.

The strength of Bahrain's economy, the favourable commercial laws and the cosmopolitan social environment are the major factors to be considered by businessmen contemplating the extension of their activities to the Arabian Gulf. The well-established and sizable British community in Bahrain has made a substantial contribution to the Island's spearheading progress - and with the wealth of new and exciting local business opportunities now arising, Bahrain looks forward to the continuation of this close co-operation for many years to come.

Chernenko changes tune and insists on withdrawal of missiles

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Konstantin Chernenko, sometimes seen as the champion of Brezhnev-style détente, yesterday took an uncompromisingly hard line toward the United States, saying that Russia would on no account return to the Geneva arms talks unless American missiles were withdrawn from Western Europe.

In an interview on the front page of *Pravda* yesterday, the Soviet leader attacked President Reagan's recent foreign policy statements. Despite the "peace-loving rhetoric" coming from Washington, it was impossible, "however hard one tries", to discern any sign that Mr Reagan was ready to back up his words with deeds.

Washington was talking eagerly about its readiness to resume the Geneva talks. "But about what, may one ask? About how many missiles the United States can target against the Soviet Union and its allies, and which missiles specifically? Such talks are not for us".

Mr Chernenko said America was building up its arms while remaining intransigent in negotiations. "Our contacts with the Americans show that not positive changes have taken place in the position of the United States", he said. He insisted that America and Nato would have to "restore the situation that existed before the deployment of the new American missiles began" - a phrase often used by his predecessor, Mr Yuri Andropov.

Diplomats said the reference to contacts with America was puzzling since Moscow has

repeatedly denied that talks about arms have taken place at any level, although Mr Arthur Hartman, the United States Ambassador in Moscow, has twice met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, recently.

Diplomats said the timing of Mr Chernenko's statement was also puzzling since it came on the eve of this week's Central Committee and Supreme Soviet sessions.

It would enhance his authority as Russia's leader if, as expected, Mr Chernenko is elected head of state at the Supreme Soviet tomorrow. But the *Pravda* interview appears to preempt an imported foreign policy statement by Mr Gromyko. It also leaves Mr Chernenko with little new to say on East-West issues at the earlier Central Committee plenum.

Last Wednesday, Mr Chernenko spoke in more dovish tones of the "acute need" to restore international trust by "reactivating détente".

In *Pravda* yesterday, however, the Soviet leader described the world situation as very dangerous and accused the United States of frustrating agreements on weapons in space, chemical armaments and underground nuclear explosions by claiming that treaties were difficult to verify.

"I have touched on the question of verification because the United States makes recourse to it whenever it does not want an agreement. Whenever there is a real desire to reach agreement on arms reduction and disarmament,

verification has not been, and cannot be, an obstacle."

Mr Chernenko denied that Moscow was waiting for the outcome of the American presidential election before reaching agreement with the United States. "Those who circulate such ideas either do not know our policy or more probably deliberately distort it. Ours is a principled policy and is not subject to transient vacillations."

Mr Chernenko said the Soviet Union had dealt with various Washington administrations in its history. Whereas some had shown "realism and a responsible approach" to relations with Moscow, the Reagan Administration had failed to do so, and Soviet-American relations had worsened accordingly.

● WASHINGTON: America is disappointed by the tone of Mr Chernenko's interview, but President Reagan continues to hope for a climate which would allow arms control and regional and bilateral problems to be solved (Mobsin Ali writes).

The White House spokesman said yesterday that the Administration would not offer any concessions in advance just to bring the Soviet Union back to Geneva. "The US was not the party that walked away from the negotiating table. The Soviets did".

The spokesman said that President Reagan's willingness to solve problems with the Soviet Union had been made clear. He had repeatedly emphasized a readiness to negotiate.



Vatican envoy: The Pope receiving Mr William Wilson, the first US Ambassador to the Holy See in 117 years

Top post for African in Vatican reshuffle

Rome (AP) - The Pope has appointed an African cardinal and an American prelate to the key Vatican posts in the biggest reshuffle of the Roman Catholic Church's central administration in modern times.

The Pope also redefined several Vatican posts, giving increased responsibility to the Secretary of State, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, and apparently downgrading one of the two jobs held by Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, who is American.

"Nobody expected such a major reshuffle although it was long overdue", said a Vatican official of the 18 appointments. "It appears that the Pope is moving towards the concept of appointing heads of Vatican departments once every five years", the official said.

At present, Vatican officials serve without fixed terms, but a Vatican task force has recently recommended consideration of a fixed term system.

The Pope named Benin-born Cardinal Bernardin Gantin as prefect of the powerful Congregation for the Bishops, which

screens and recommends to the Pope candidates for archbishops and bishops around the world.

Vatican officials said it was the first time that a black African was given a top job in the Curia, the church's central administration.

Cardinal Gantin's post is considered one of the most important in the Curia. The 51-year-old cardinal replaces the Italian Cardinal Sebastiano Baggio.

The Pope also promoted Mr John Foley to the rank of archbishop and put him in

charge of the Vatican's media operation as president of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications.

Mr Foley, editor of the *Catholic Standard and Times* published by the archdiocese of Philadelphia, takes over from the ailing Archbishop Andrzej Deskur, a Pole, who has resigned and was named a consultant to the Secretary of State.

Vatican sources said Mr Foley's appointment reflects the Pope's desire to overhaul and modernize the Vatican's new operation.

Mr John Foley to the rank of archbishop and put him in

Unions see Martens on eve of strike

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgian union leaders met the Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, yesterday for urgent talks on austerity cuts ahead of a Socialist-led strike today but without making any apparent headway.

As the talks went on, 6,000 workers demonstrated in the southern city of Charleroi and about 400 marchers left off firecrackers in Brussels in protest against plans to cut real wages by two per cent in each of the next three years.

Socialist unions presented a radical alternative to the centre-right Government's austerity plan, approved by Parliament two weeks ago. But union officials said neither the Government nor unions seemed in a mood for compromise.

Unesco chief not quitting

Washington (Reuters) - The Unesco director-general Mr Amadou Mahtar M'bow, said he has no intention of quitting despite criticism over the way the organization is run.

He told a news conference he would not seek a confidence vote from the 45-member executive board when it meets on May 9. He intended to run his full seven-year term until 1987.

Tourists barred

Moscow (AP) - Two French tourists were expelled from the Soviet Union after customs officers in Leningrad found "anti-Soviet and Zionist literature" in their luggage. Tass reported yesterday. It was the fourth such expulsion in less than two months.

Border escape

Jakarta - Refugees from Indonesia's Irian Jaya province continued to stream into Papua New Guinea over the weekend to escape Indonesian military operations in the border area, diplomatic and missionary sources said. Foreign ministers of both countries meet this week to discuss border problems.

Tube blocked

Hongkong (Reuters) - The 630 train drivers on Hongkong's underground railway, which carries a million passengers a day, went on strike in a dispute over a new shift system. They were threatened with dismissal if they did not return to work by today.

Tamils attack

Colombo (AP) - Nine soldiers were wounded in a bomb attack by Tamil separatist terrorists on an army convoy near Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka. One person was reported killed and several injured when troops opened fire after the blast.

Drought help

Harare, (Reuters) - The United States is to give Zimbabwe 30,000 tons of yellow maize worth \$10.9m (£7.5m) to help it cope with drought. Diplomatic sources said the Americans insisted that the troubled Matebeleland province get a fair share.

Schmidt quits

Bonn (Reuters) - The former West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, who is 70, officially stepped down as one of the two deputy chairmen of the Social Democratic Party. Herr Hans-Joachim Vogel, party parliamentary leader, has been nominated to replace him.

Golden row

Speisai, Greece (AP) - A reconstructed Bronze Age galley that will test the legendary voyage of Jason and the Argonauts to find the Golden Fleece, set out yesterday on a 1,500-mile journey to the Black Sea pulled by its 30 oarsmen.

Hitler ruling

Braunau, Austria (AP) - A judge banned the government from placing an anti-fascist marble plaque on the house where Adolf Hitler was born. The owner objected. The plaque read: "Never again fascism. Millions of dead warn. For peace, freedom and democracy."

Correction

Dr. David Browning, who was an observer at last month's presidential elections in El Salvador, is not from El Salvador, as reported on March 21.

US Army builds airstrips in Honduras

From Alan Tomlinson Tegucigalpa

Some 800 United States Army engineers newly arrived in Honduras for the latest round of joint military exercises have begun work on two dirt airstrips near the Nicaraguan and Salvadorean borders.

The airstrips, 4,000ft long and suitable for huge Hercules troop transports, are being built at Jamastran, 20 miles from the Nicaraguan border, and Cucuyagua, 25 miles from El Salvador.

The border near Jamastran has been the scene of frequent clashes between Honduran and Nicaraguan frontier guards. It is also very close to the base camps inside Honduras of the United States-backed anti-Sandinista "Contras".

The airstrip at Cucuyagua is intended to provide logistical support for the "Greenard 1" exercises scheduled to begin on May 23. Salvadorean and possibly Guatemalan troops will for the first time join United States and Honduran soldiers in the manoeuvres near the Salvadorean border.

A United States Army spokesman said American troops will, as in the past, be under instructions to remain at least five miles from the borders.

Preparations for the exercises are proceeding apparently unaffected by recent abrupt changes in the command of the Honduran armed forces.

The arrival of the engineers brings to 2,800 the number of US military personnel stationed in Honduras. The majority belong to the joint "Task Force Alpha", a permanent group charged with planning and preparing the exercises from Palmarola air base.

There are also 100 US advisers training Honduran and Salvadorean troops in counter-insurgency techniques.

Students flog Zia effigy

Karachi (Reuters) - Medical students protesting in central Karachi at a government ban on their unions, flogged, hanged and then burned an effigy of President Zia ul-Haq after a mock trial. The protest lasted two hours until police fired tear gas to disperse the students.

In Lahore, students burned down the vice-chancellor's office at Punjab University's old campus. Police fired tear gas to break up another student demonstration at the new campus.

Sharon rejects party plea to drop challenge to Shamir

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Despite appeals from a number of senior figures in the ruling Likud coalition, Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's controversial former Defence Minister, has announced that he will press ahead with his plan to challenge Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, for leadership of the dominant Herut Party.

Although Mr Sharon, the chief architect of the 1982 Lebanon invasion, is considered to have the chance of removing Mr Shamir from his post, he is anxious to display sufficient grassroots support to back his demand for another senior Cabinet post, if Likud, despite its poor showing in the opinion polls, returns for a third term in July.

At a party meeting on Sunday night Mr Sharon rejected a call from rank and file Herut supporters that he should follow the example set last week by Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, and withdraw his leadership challenge.

He argued that he differed with the Prime Minister on a number of points of principle, including the need to maintain an independent stance towards the United States.

The power struggle inside the right-wing Herut - which is being observed with undisguised satisfaction by the opposition parties - is due to come to a head on Thursday in

the auditorium of the Tel Aviv exhibition grounds when some 1,000 members are eligible to vote in the two-man contest. Mr Sharon's aides expect him to poll around 20 per cent of the total.

Labour, the main Opposition party, has been particularly gratified by Mr Sharon's stand because it has shown up the uncharacteristic show of unity in its own ranks.

Only last week, the party managed to elect Mr Shimon Peres as its leader without any challenge from either Mr Yitzhak Navon, the popular former Israeli President, or Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the last Labour Prime Minister.

Further efforts to persuade Mr Sharon to stand down are expected before Thursday's vote. But so far, the disgruntled Minister without Portfolio has shrugged aside all entreaties, including one which is reportedly to have reached him from the former Prime Minister and Herut leader, Mr Menachem Begin.

Because Herut is the pre-dominant party inside the Likud coalition, its leader automatically becomes the coalition candidate to head the government. The Shamir-Sharon contest is certain to show the deep divisions which exist on the right wing of Israeli politics.

Following the Cabinet's weekend refusal to allow Mr Sharon to use the classified section of the report into the West Beirut massacres to fight a libel action against *Time* magazine, the former Defence Minister was described by one Herut source as "very much a wounded tiger" whose future moves in the campaign were unpredictable.

At Sunday's party meeting Mr Sharon, who commands a considerable personal following among Israel's underprivileged Oriental Jewish community, flatly rejected Labour's call for a low-key election campaign.

"I am astonished that they are not blushing with shame" he told his audience.

● The Israeli police yesterday claimed a significant breakthrough in their struggle against Jewish terrorism with the arrest of four Jewish militants suspected of carrying out 14 separate attacks against Christian and Muslim targets in and around Jerusalem since December.

The arrests, made after a police informer had sold weapons to the Jews, all in their twenties, were expected to defuse political criticism that the authorities were deliberately dragging their feet in their efforts to find those responsible for the recent wave of attacks against non-Jewish targets.

EEC talks on British cash cut short

From Ian Murray Luxembourg

EEC foreign ministers resumed their talks on the British budget problem in Luxembourg yesterday but they stopped after only 45 minutes.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, emphasized that Britain wanted a settlement "sooner rather than later". But he said that there was no question of accepting anything less than Britain had bargained so long to get - a budget payment system leaving Britain no more than a modest net contributor.

A West German diplomat believed that a quick settlement was impossible "because we are still waiting for a friendly sign from London. We have already made so many friendly signs that we might be accused of being too friendly".

Mr Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, claiming the meeting was at pains to play down the importance and urgency of reaching agreement. His view for public consumption was that the Community had already agreed on the lion's share of all the reforms needed and that the budget problem alone remained which was little



Private word: M Cheysson (left) and Herr Genscher having a talk before the meeting in Luxembourg

more than a detail that would be sorted out in due course.

Diplomats here felt that the early settlement of the agricultural price and reform deal 10 days earlier meant that there was much more room to manoeuvre and time to bring further concessions from Britain.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has already agreed to accept a calculation which makes Britain's net contribution seem considerably lower than Whitehall originally claimed. This has made the gap "bridgeable", according to Sir Geoffrey, with

Britain prepared to accept a starting point for paying contributions only around 290m lower than was on offer.

Agreement on a starting figure, however, can only be part of the negotiations. It is also essential to know the level at which Britain would have to pay its contribution, before it should be possible to work out the amount it would owe each year.

Officials emphasized that a great deal of detailed work would need to be done after any agreement was reached in order to perfect the payments system.

Fear of spring offensive

Syria issues tough warning to Israel

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Gripped by an almost seasonal concern that Israel may be planning a spring attack on Syrian forces in Lebanon, the Government in Damascus is issuing its now annual warning to Israel and America that any aggression against it will be repelled by Syrian troops with missile batteries.

Syrian officials are claiming that Israel has just amassed a considerable number of troops behind the occupied Golan Heights, and reinforced its positions south of its front line in the Bekaa Valley for unscheduled manoeuvres, and that Israeli photo-reconnaissance jets have been taking more pictures than usual over the Syrian lines in the Bekaa.

Whether Syria's anxiety is genuine or whether its alarms are intended to provide a smokescreen for military movements unconnected with the Arab-Israeli conflict remains to be seen.

The Israelis are certainly about to start what they

describe as a routine reserve call-up exercise, and Syrian radio monitors have heard Israeli broadcasters telling reservists that they will have to report to their units.

On the other hand, the Syrian authorities are intent on trying to dispel the constant reports of a power struggle in the government leadership here, they are describing the movement of 772 tanks on the southern outskirts of the capital last month as a response to Israeli military manoeuvres behind Golan, this is a slightly unconvincing argument as the tanks were not on transporters, but were seen travelling on their tracks escorted by armoured vehicles.

Officials here are repeatedly emphasizing that Damascus is a "front line city" within artillery range of Israeli positions in Lebanon, specifically referring to Israeli gun batteries in the Lebanese village of Yarta, and that military movements in the

Syrian capital cannot therefore be described as strange.

"Israel and America are planning aggression against Syria" the party newspaper *Al Baath* roared rather predictably yesterday. "But the aggressors will be confronted this time with more determination and effectiveness."

Such declarations, however, lie ill beside the prevailing atmosphere in Damascus which has neither the feeling of a city about to come under attack nor the mood of a capital about to witness civil conflict.

While there are appreciably more plainclothes security police in some of the suburbs there are no obvious signs of internal tension in Damascus or elsewhere in Syria.

The *Sowkhs* of the city, which are normally an accurate barometer of the country's political stability, are open as usual; there are fewer security checks than usual on the main roads out of Damascus, and no sign of troop movements of any kind

in the streets over the past week.

The posters depicting Colonel Rifkat al-Assad, the President's brother and commander of the Defence Brigades, which at one point decorated the ancient Street Called Straight, had largely disappeared.

However the colonel's photograph, taken at last weekend's Baath Party anniversary celebrations at which he wore full military uniform and medals, appeared prominently in government-run newspapers, an image that may have spoken louder than words.

Tunis summit

Tunis (Reuters) - Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister on a 24-hr visit to Tunisia, as chairman of the non-aligned movement, held separate meetings with President Habib Bourguiba and Mr Yasser Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organization chairman.

Brandt says arms money should be spent on aid

From Martha de la Cal Lisbon

Herr Willy Brandt, speaking in Lisbon at the conference on "North-South: The Role of Europe" yesterday, underlined the importance of the link between disarmament and development, and suggested that the inclusion of the Soviet Union and its allies in future agreements on international economic cooperation could produce favourable results.

Herr Brandt said the matter of interdependence between disarmament and development was being looked into and there was hope that more than the usual generalities would be the outcome.

"The interdependence is more complex than it seems at first glance", he said, and pointed out that criticism of military projects in underdeveloped countries was not very convincing when it came from the decision-making organs of the very countries that furnish arms - many times actually forcing the countries to buy through hard-sell tactics.



Herr Brandt: Matter of interdependence

He was convinced that money from armaments should be transferred to development.

Concerning the inclusion of the Soviet Union in agreements on international economic cooperation, Herr Brandt said: "The topic of internationally agreed reallocation of funds away from military budgets and in favour of international development seems to receive growing attention in the USSR and in the Comoco countries too."

Nona Thomas is incurable. She's learning to swim.

Nona Thomas was training as a nurse when illness forced her to change her profession. Eventually, even running a little knitting wool shop proved too much and she now lives at the RHHI, confined to a wheelchair. Nona suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy which restricts her very severely, but she doesn't let these limitations beat her. She's often in the patients' kitchen,

making tempting titbits for everyone, or in the occupational therapy room, trying her hand at pottery or painting. She's even learning to swim in the hydrotherapy pool despite her fear of water and she goes on outings whenever possible.

We care for over 270 incurable patients like Nona and through individual medical attention, therapy and nursing, we try to retrieve as much of their independence as possible.

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☐ I enclose a donation to the RHHI.

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Name

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N Koreans walk out of Olympics meeting

Panmunjon (AP) - North Korean delegates walked out of a meeting here with South Korea yesterday complaining that the South had introduced "slandorous" political allegations at a session intended to discuss a joint Olympic team.

The chief North Korean delegate Mr Pak Musung, walked out of the room after two and a half hours. "We will not show up at the next meeting," he shouted as he left.

He demanded that South Korea retract its allegations against North Korea over a bomb attack on South Korea

ministers in Rangoon, Burma last October, and an alleged kidnapping of two South Korean film celebrities from Hongkong to North Korea in 1978.

A Burmese court convicted two men of the bombing and identified them as North Korean agents, but North Korea has denied any responsibility.

The two Korean states were meeting at this time village in the Demilitarized Zone to discuss the forming of a unified athletic team for the Olympics and other international sporting events.



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German alternatives, Part 2: The generation gap and counter-culture

Berlin's urban hothouse reflects the changing face of society

Go to the Kreuzberg district of West Berlin, hard by the Wall. As well as housing Little Turkey, with its smell of kebab and Oriental music, this run-down part of the old capital is home to Berlin's "alternatives" - squatters, political activists, protesters with education and left-wing ideals, but not much money.

Here there are the communes, big and small, set up in disused film studios or shabby, high-ceilinged houses, where the alternative society flourishes. It is a society so large, so diverse that the Berlin guide to this world is as fat as a telephone directory: women's movements, gays, ecologists, artists and film-makers, those who bake their bread and weave their clothes, pacifists, meditation communities, drop-outs, drug addicts. Their numbers are large, their ideas contagious, their political influence strong.

West Berlin is, of course, an island, an artificial entity where every trend is exaggerated in the urban hothouse. But Kreuzberg illustrates not only the changing face of this sui generis outpost, but also of the Federal Republic as a whole.

Not only has Germany changed physically after the

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

war, but its people have changed - and are changing again as the new generation takes a very different view, or diversity of views, of their country and the world from that of the disciplined, penitent, earnest generation that grew up in the Adenauer era.

Movements for change of all kinds are strong in a society that appears increasingly fragmented and uncertain of its goals. The nature of the change is undefined, except that it rejects the affluence and ethos of a society many young people today feel has become too cold, impersonal, narrow-minded and geared to material success.

And although the election of a conservative government has been taken by many as a return to old values, to settled German virtues, the ideas and attitudes thrown up in the cacophony of the alternative movement have rippled out beyond the city centres and artists' communes.

Two things are responsible: the media and the education system. An echo of the 1968 student activism is still heard in German schools, where young teachers propound views that nourished them as stu-

dents. But in the universities themselves, despite the more conservative climate, the intellectual ferment has continued, helped by the large number of students - more than 1,200,000 - and the generous time given them to complete their studies.

The media have found in the alternative movement profitable material for argument and debate. Television and the weekly news magazines in particular have focused attention on the environment, the peace movement, women's rights, the gap in outlook between generations, which is more pronounced in Germany than the gap between classes or political parties.

For Stern magazine, the espousal of such causes has been fashionable and slick rather than sympathetic or committed.

But one attempt to found a daily newspaper properly reflecting alternative, rather than simply left-wing, views has succeeded - just. The Berlin-based *Tagesspiegel*, known as *Tag*, loses money, is involved in litigation over tax status and is constantly buffeted by factions wanting to push it this way or that. But it circulates beyond the West Berlin alternative ghettos, it underlines the



Under the cobbles: Police and peace protesters clash.

sense of commitment by most young journalists in Germany today and it brings together the various strands of the counter-culture.

Conscientious objection to military service is not confined to Kreuzberg either. The widespread anti-military sentiment among today's generation liable to call-up is a force the Government and the Bundeswehr planners have to reckon with.

The new mood harks back to

German Romanticism, to the intellectual engagement of pre-Nazi times.

A survey a year ago found surprising support in all sections of society for such concepts as breaking industry and society down into units of a more human scale, recycling waste and materials, curbing consumption and imposing limits on the affluent way of life to protect the environment.

The famous German work ethic is losing its hold as people

question the old priorities, argue for a more relaxed life-style and take the duty to achieve with less earnestness.

The Greens are the catalysts for and result of such changes. They present an alternative vision of Germany which is increasingly influencing the outlook not simply of the second post-war generation, but of established political and social institutions.

Concluded

Peking accused of further incursions

By Our Foreign Staff

Chinese troops have again crossed the border into Vietnam and launched artillery assaults, an official Vietnamese source in Hanoi told Agence France-Presse yesterday.

Vietnam had earlier alleged that a number of Chinese infantry regiments had entered Lang Son Province, North-East of Hanoi, on Friday, but were chased from two hills a day later. Sources said Chinese troops crossed the northern frontier at several points, but gave no further details.

The official Chinese press, which has spent the past week detailing alleged Vietnamese armed provocations against China's southern border, yesterday stayed silent about the fighting.

The last comment on the flare-up was issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Saturday night, when a spokeswoman described Vietnamese claims as fabricated.

Radio Hanoi said Vietnam had inflicted heavy losses on the Chinese invasion force. Reuter was told by diplomats in Peking



that the fighting was connected with clashes between Vietnamese troops and Cambodian Khmer Rouge guerrillas along the Thai-Cambodia border.

The Khmer Rouge, toppled from power in Cambodia by Vietnamese forces in 1979, are the main faction in a tripartite anti-Vietnamese Cambodian coalition, backed by Peking.

China launched a punitive assault on Vietnam in early 1979 after Hanoi's invasion of Cambodia. The latest flare-up coincides with a Vietnamese dry-season offensive against the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

Dock strike hits Tokyo

Tokyo (Reuters) - Dockworkers at Japan's main ports of Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka and Kammon yesterday held a one-day strike to demand job security in the face of containerization.

Dockers at more than 40 smaller ports also staged walk-outs.

The National Council of

Harbour Workers said that the strike had affected about 200 ships, including 47 in Tokyo, 28 in Yokohama and 46 in Kobe. The Council plans another strike, for an indefinite period starting in mid-April involving only container ships.

In the past five or six years more than 30,000 dockworkers have lost their jobs.

Trudeau 'no' to cash for interned Japanese

From John Best, Ottawa

A move to compensate thousands of Japanese Canadians for their upheaval during the Second World War has been stopped by Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister.

He told a House of Commons questioner that he personally would not be inclined to pay compensation "for acts which have perhaps discoloured our history in the past", if other means of redress were possible.

The question of reimbursement has been simmering for years as Canadians seek to come to terms with one of their more painful collective memories.

Under a government decree signed on February 22, 1942, two-and-a-half months after Pearl Harbour, 22,000 Japanese Canadians were uprooted from their homes on the West Coast and interned in camps hundreds of miles inland, east of the Rocky Mountains.

Their houses, farms, fishing boats and other property were confiscated. Token compensation was eventually paid after the war and the internees were allowed to return to the coast in 1949.

The deportations were ordered on the unproven grounds that the Japanese Canadians were disloyal and might somehow try to help

Japan if the Pacific war should move close to Canadian shores. Canada's vague, lingering feeling of national guilt over the affair was reflected in the recent report of a Commons committee on visible minorities. It called on Parliament to issue a formal apology to the Japanese Canadians, most of whom are still living, and urged the Government to negotiate financial redress.

Mr Trudeau, under questioning by New Democratic Party MPs last week, was quick to acknowledge that "terrible injustices had been committed, but he insisted that the Government's responsibility was to be 'just in time' and did not extend to redressing all the wrongs that had ever been perpetrated against minority groups. "I am not quite sure where we would stop the compensating."

The kind of redress he favoured were measures to prevent the same thing happening again and this was the purpose of the constitutionally-entrenched Canadian Bill of Rights enacted two years ago.

The National Association of Japanese Canadians, representing 44,000 Canadians of Japanese origin, expressed regret at Mr Trudeau's statement.

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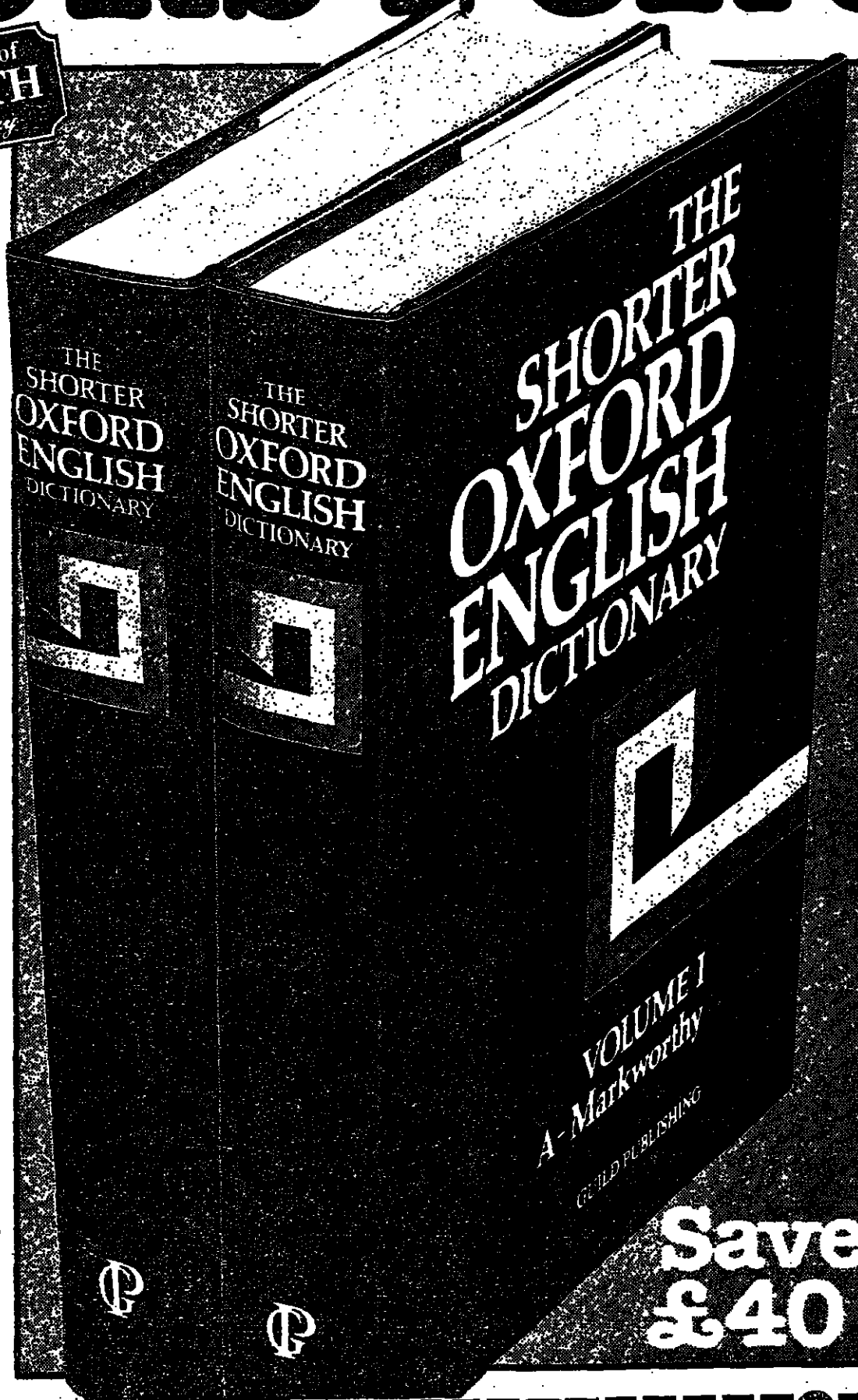
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Cocos poll criticized by UN

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

Australia has been criticized for failing to give sufficient political education to the Cocos Islanders before last Friday's vote on the island's future status.

Mr Abdul Koroma, of Sierra Leone, chairman of the United Nations Committee on Decolonization, who was one of four UN observers on the islands, said that he was concerned that the Australian Government had not taken account of the large illiteracy rate among the Cocos Malay inhabitants. About two-thirds of the islanders are illiterate.

The islands, strategically placed 1,730 miles north-west of Perth in the Indian Ocean, voted overwhelmingly to become part of Australia. More than 88 per cent of the 261 people who voted opted for integration with Australia.

There were two other options available: free association with Australia and independence. Mr Koroma said because of the high level of illiteracy there should have been a far greater use of posters explaining the three choices.

On the question of the future of the islands' former owner, Mr John Clunies-Ross, Mr Koroma indicated that the UN mission would take notice of demands by the islanders that he be removed.

He said that the observers' report would criticize Mr Clunies-Ross because the people and their leaders had repeatedly expressed grave concern about the continued presence of the former owner.

Jets collide

Canberra (AFP) - Two Australian Air Force Mirage jets collided in mid-air near Townsville, northern Queensland, during a routine bombing exercise. The body of one of the pilots was found. The RAAF has now lost 37 of its 116 French-designed and Melbourne-built Mirages.

Prisoners of conscience



East Germany: Gabriele Wieland

By Caroline Moorehead

Fraulein Gabriele Wieland was a financial administrator with a company in Leipzig when she was arrested in January 1983 and charged with contacting foreigners. "To the disadvantage of the interests of the GDR", Fraulein Wieland, aged 21, had spent the previous year applying for permission to join her fiancé, who lives in West Germany. Permission was refused.

The right to leave East Germany is severely restricted for citizens below the age of retirement. To emigrate requires special permission, which is difficult to obtain.

When Fraulein Wieland appeared in court, she was sentenced to two years and three months in prison under Article 99 of the penal code ("treasonable activity as an agent").

Both these articles have been applied in recent years to large numbers of would-be emigrants who contact foreigners in the hope that support or publicity abroad will improve their chances of obtaining permission to emigrate.



Fraulein Wieland: Applied to join her fiancé.

FASHION

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The Olympic flame has already been lit by the fashion industry. Active and spectator sports clothes have come together to make the fashion success story of the 1980s. Three months before the Los Angeles Olympic Games open officially in July, the shops are crammed with track suits, jogging pants, vests and shorts.

The lean athletic line has found its champions in the young, British street-wise designers. Their unisex sporty sweats and body-conscious clothes are full of the energy of a generation which takes life at a run. The winning combination of innovative cutting and witty styling has put names like Body Map, PX and Sue Clowes out in front in a competitive field.

The singlet is the star shape of the sporty collections, and exaggerated vest backs appear on swimsuits, leotards, and slim shapely summer dresses. The vests are often cut off at the midriff to reveal a well-built torso or are layered two at a time and worn with a belt.

Shorts shaped like men's briefs are giving a new, sexy outline to the male and female physique. Browns has an old-fashioned man's bathing costume by the Japanese 'Matsuda' label. Pineapple Dance Shops stock a girl's striped brief and cropped vest set designed for a powerful, athletic bodyline.

Cotton fleece has come a long way since its sweatshirt origins. It is now the fabric for all seasons and is used for lounge-style trousers, body-skimming tubular skirts with sexy outline to the male and female physique. Browns has an old-fashioned man's bathing costume by the Japanese 'Matsuda' label. Pineapple Dance Shops stock a girl's striped brief and cropped vest set designed for a powerful, athletic bodyline.

The street-mobile sweats are bold in black and bright white and teamed with primary red

Below: "Vive" cotton fleece zip-neck, topped top £22.50 by Tomboy from Peter Robinson, Piccadilly Circus SW1; Stirling Cooper, West One Shopping Centre; Zoo, Russell, Watford, Harrow and Uxbridge. White tube shirt with orange stripe £20, also green, yellow, black, from PX, 57 Endell Street WC2; Jones, 77 King's Road SW3; Warehouse, Glasgow. Black "Sports" glasses £6.95 and fluorescent band £3.25 from Way In, Harrods. Orange, yellow and blue bangles by Sheila



Above: H&M: White interlock vest with M.P.H. logo £13, also red, yellow, black; grey/black buckled shorts £18.50. Both by Sue Clowes from SJS on 2 at Simpson, Piccadilly SW1; Joseph, Sloane Street SW1 and South Molton Street W1; Review, King's Road SW3; Square, Bath. Ambands £2 each from PX, 57 Endell Street WC2; Nike socks £3.98, Olympus Sports, 301 Oxford Street and branches. Leather cycling shoes £28.55 from The London Bicycle Company, Floral Street WC2; H&M: Sky blue shiny tracksuit jacket £58.95 (with matching trousers); blue sweatshirting pants with red/white side stripe £23.95, by Kappa. Nike nylon and mesh vest £9.99. All from Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus SW1 and selected Olympus Sports countrywide. Grey cotton fleeces, shorts £9.99 by Adidas from good sports shops. Training shoes from Sports World at C&A.

and egg yellow or flashes of look-alike lime green and orange fluorescent colour. Across the broad, muscular chest goes the logo, a catline which gives a new collection of leisurewear a sporting chance over its rivals. Fiorucci's sportive derivatives carry the message "Intensive Training". Levi's are launching a bisexual range of sweats separates called "Peak Performance", with the motif and hi-fashion detailing on hooded boxers' jackets and cropped pants with quilted knee

pads, which will be available from June. The current big sellers in the chain stores are big T-shirts with slogans like "Oui" and "Vive" and for men the team cycling shirts are being stocked in the high-fashion boutiques.

The Olympic colours and emblems are the theme for the brand name sportswear ranges. Adidas is supplying tracksuits to the British team and its "souvenir" T-shirt in the shops now is printed with "Spirit of the Games" in red, white and blue. It has moved with the trend towards leisurewear and designed its active sports clothes to help you look and fit and fashionable on or off the track.

Speedo's Olympic-styled swimwear, cut on racing lines, features stripes and stars in Olympic blue, yellow, red, green and black. It has a wide range of swimming accessories and some big fluffy towelling robes in

fresh summery colours for men and women.

Tickets to Los Angeles are the valuable prize in a competition C & A is currently running in its stores, and like many companies it will contribute money to the British Olympic team. Its Sports World department is well established in all the stores and stocks specialist clothes under its own "Rodeo" label. It reports that the range of sports taken up is continually expanding and that the women's sportswear market has devel-

oped at a fantastically fast pace in recent years. Its leotards and tracksuits for exercise classes and gymnastics come in pretty pastels and fun stripes.

Olympus Sports has 63 branches nationwide it strong on specialist shoes and equipment and concentrates on the brand-name sports clothing companies with a high fashion profile.

Another spin-off from the sportswear revolution is the casual shoe. Boxing boots, baseball boots, Japanese canvas

slip-ons and rubber-soled jazz shoes are now everyday wear. The street stylis wear lace-up gillies and gladiator sandals over brightly coloured towelling socks.

The London Marathon (the next one is on May 13) will put sports footwear in the forefront. And the Olympic Games will be the fashion focus of the nationwide interest in sports and fitness.

Christine Painell

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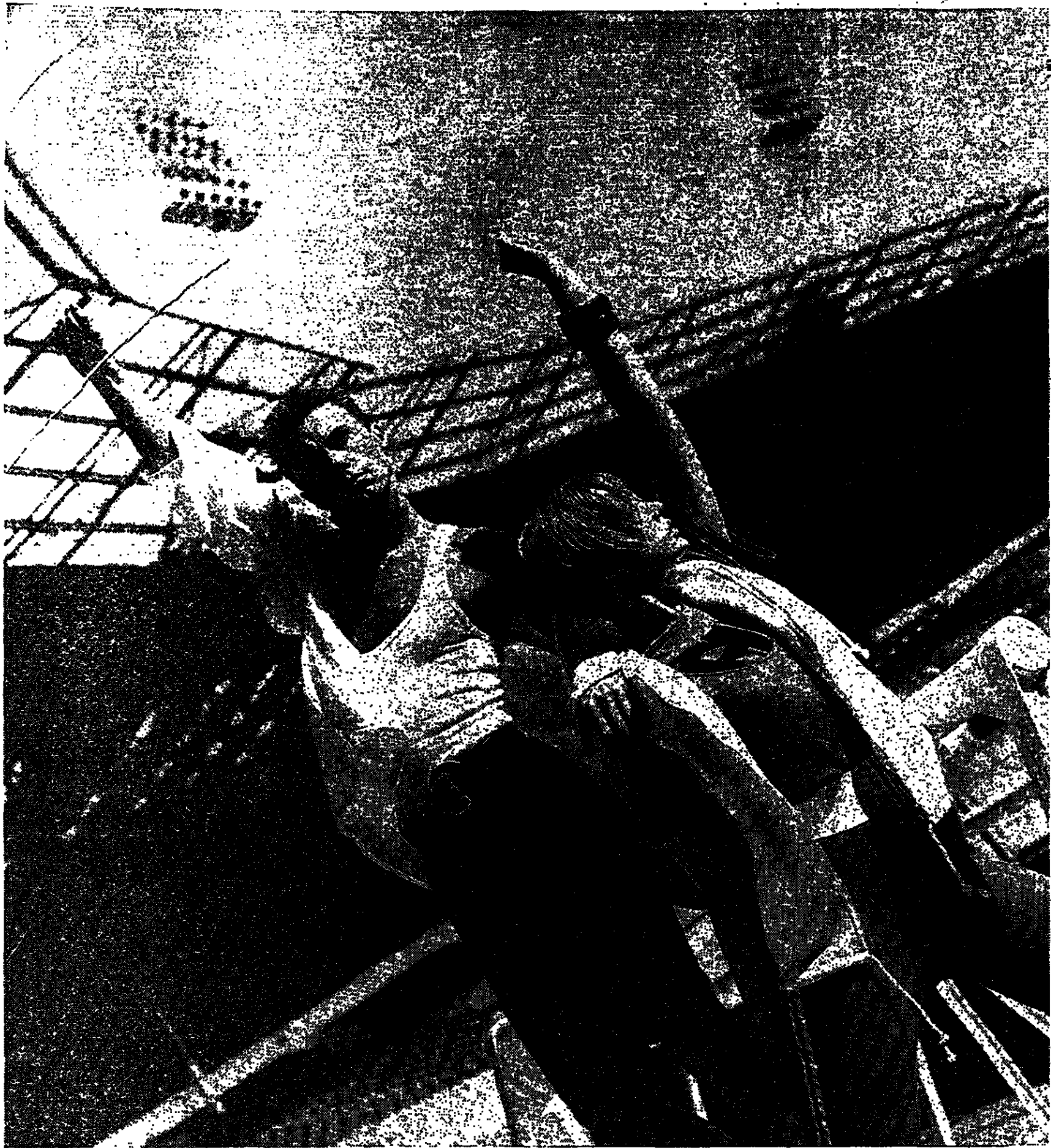
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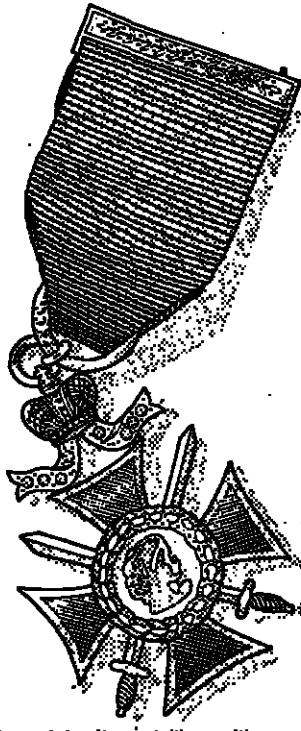
FASHION



The order of the day

Medals are the order of the day for fashion jewelry. Gilded imperial medallions, complete with regimental ribbons, glittering past orders and Russian army medals beam out from the windows of Butler and Wilson.

Giorgio Armani was the first designer to award himself a clutch of decorations which appeared on breast and lapels and swinging from hips in his new collection. Nicky Butler, who made the Armani jewels and has now found his collection an international hot property, says that the forthcoming Olympics was part of the inspiration for the insignia. Roman medallions, imperial Russian orders and Victorian court pieces all went into the research for a project which comes out in the witty and colourful windows in the Fulham Road, where the medals are shown on simple white T-shirts.



Imperial gilt medallion with paste and enamel, £18.50. From Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, London SW10.

Butler and Wilson's palace of paste has every colour from boudoir pink to blood red to black with the more traditional white for the sparkling jewels. The newest medals are in gilt with just a hint of a sparkle and a dab of enamel.

Gary Wright and Sheila Teague have awarded themselves a bar of Olympic medals to dangle at neck or breast pocket. Their medals come singly on grosgrain ribbon or in batches of five from a military star to an athlete's laurel wreath.

SUZY MENKES
Illustration by John Grimwade

Above: HER: Red sweats wrestling-style one-piece with vest top £28.99, by Tomboy from Peter Robinson, Oxford Circus W1; Stirling Cooper, West One Shopping Centre, Zoo in Ruislip, Watford, Harrow and Uxbridge. White fleeces hooded jackets £35, also black, grey, red, pink, from The Dance Centre, 12 Floral Street WC2 and Unit 8, Windsor Bridge Court, Eton, Windsor, Mesh 'Fit' boxy T-shirt £8.99 by The Fitness Centre from Way in Harrods, Zoo, Ruislip. White elasticated belt £18, Browns. 'Gym-bands' from Olympus Sports. HIM: White cotton fleeces kimono jacket £35, also black, grey fleck, by Stephen King from 315 King's Road SW3. White ribbed cotton singlet £19, black long-line shorts £39, both by Body Map from Brown's Man's Shop, 27 South Molton Street W1. Leather weight-lifter's belt £15.50, Lillywhites.

Top right: Speedo swimsuit, style California, £16.95, black or blue background; swim hat with Olympic stars £2.99, goggles £3.99. From a range at Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus W1; Olympic Way, Harrods;

Olympus Sports and good sports shops. Swimming medal by Sheila Teague and Gary Wright. White towelling robe £75 by Sonia Rykiel from Browns, South Molton Street W1. Hoola hoop from Harrods.

Bottom right: HER: Red, white and black sweats top with padded shoulders £46, matching short slim skirt with racing stripes £34, by Susan Backhouse from Hyper Hyper, 28-40 Kensington High Street W8; Medals by Sheila Teague and Gary Wright. Puma baseball boots £29.99, Olympus Sports, 301 Oxford Street W1. Cotton and satin baseball cap by Raleigh from Barnaby, Kensington Church Street W8. HIM: Raleigh Campagnola cycling shirt in red, yellow and black, approx. £30; cycling shorts £15.99; both from a range at Olympic Way, Harrods; Barnaby, Kensington Church Street W8 and Raleigh dealers. Cycling gloves £6.95, 'skid lid' £34.50 and shoes from the London Bicycle Company, 41-42 Floral Street WC2. Union Jack and protective knee pads from Olympic Way, Harrods.

FASHFLASH

The overwhelming success of the young designers at the London fashion showings has had a refreshing response. Sue Clowes wearing her all-action towelling zippered track pants and Ellis Flyte in white floral-printed pyjamas celebrated the opening last week of the extended SJS department at Simpson of Piccadilly.

This showcase for designer talent includes Betty Jackson's sassy cotton interlocks, Body Map's black and white sweats and Lumiere's fresh navy and white clean lines. There are also cool and sophisticated silks, from Jasper Conran and Benny Ong, and Raj-inspired white linen by Monica Chong.

These capsule collections are matched by equal space for men proving the androgynous trend in modern dressing. There is Italian tailoring by Cerruti and Valentino and coordinated casual ranges from French

Connection, NewMan and Matinique.

The light and airy department has now moved on to the second floor, and the displays, designed by Conran Associates, feature mannequins with white faces and flashes of rainbow colour across the eyes which are in tune with the modern image of young design.

Meanwhile, in the generous Jermyn Street space vacated by SJS, the more traditional but equally saleable side of British fashion is being shown in the Burberry shop and the Daks boutique next door, which will carry the "Companions" range of knits, shirts and accessories.

The seductive new image for Alexon was unwrapped at Harvey Nichols last week where its first prettily-designed shop opened on the second floor.

The essentially English interior designer Nina Campbell has provided the gentle backdrop (complete with a kitchen serving coffee) for a large range

of Alexon clothes. There are trim and tailored naval separates with fresh knits, a softer and more summery collection of cottons and wild African prints promoted in their full savagery (complete with brilliantly coloured war paint) in a new advertising campaign.

Just to prove that customers could be works of art, the imaginative and award-winning Alexon pictures (many of which have appeared in *The Times*) go on public display next week.

The Parkinson portraits of English ladies in Alexon, Snowdon's winsome studies of Jane Asher among romantic ruins and Avedon's new and breathtaking African pictures of model Iman will be exhibited at Hamilton's Gallery, 13 Carlos Place, London W1 (April 16-30).

The new shop-within-a-store is in the style of the free-standing Alexon shops in Cheltenham, Bath, Harrogate with a central London opening planned for this summer.

The Princess of Wales's perky hats have brought milliner John Boyd into the limelight. It is not generally known that he has another Very Important Client in Margaret Thatcher, whose hats have larger brims and a low profile.

Neither leading lady is expected at this morning's spring hat show at John Boyd's Walton Street shop, where clients will be backing their favourites in advance of Ascot.

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Kaffe Fassett is one of this country's most talented designers: famous not only for his needlework, but also for his fabulous fabrics, knitwear and wallpaper. All of these display the subtle use of colour for which he is renowned. This fresh arrangement of flowers and leaves, inspired by an ancient oriental carpet, is one of his most popular designs and will fit well in any setting. Design of this quality is always hard to find and we are pleased to be able to offer it at such a reasonable price.



The design measures 16" x 16" - large enough for a generous cushion cover or a picture. It is worked in half-cross stitch on double weave canvas, printed in the full nine colours - sage green, delphinium, cream, light turquoise, pale pink, camel beige, green and pale gold, all on a dusty pink background. The Kit contains all the yarns required from the Anchor Tapestry Pure Wool range, needle and full instructions. All for £16.50 including postage and packing. Use FREEPOST - No stamp needed.

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VANESSA'S DIARY

Sat. Went to the Easter Egg Rolling Contest. Children upset because eggs smashing all over the place. Had brilliant idea of giving them eggs from Fortnum's. Instant success - Fortnum's scrumptious Easter eggs unbeatable - they win by yards.

Award prizes. Communiutee had very sensibly obtained everything from Fortnum's.

So winners went home armed with beautifully decorated eggs filled with specially chosen chocolates, giant chocolate bunny rabbits, exciting boxes of mouth-watering sweets, seasonal simnel cakes, freshly made hot cross buns, special Easter biscuits, baskets of fresh fruit, and even bottles of Fortnum's superb wines (for the parents, of course).

Came home and made shopping list of all the above. Intend going to Fortnum's tomorrow to stock up, because only at Fortnum's can one find such delectable Easter Gifts.

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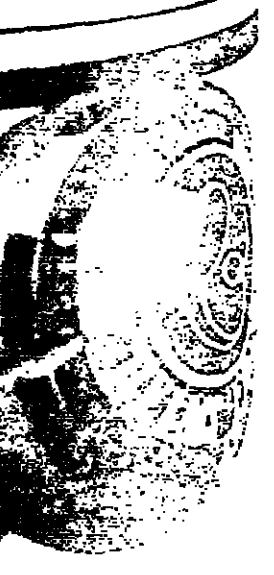
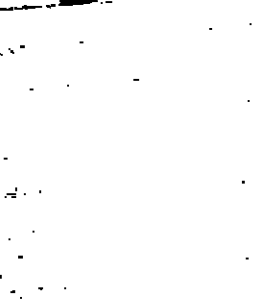
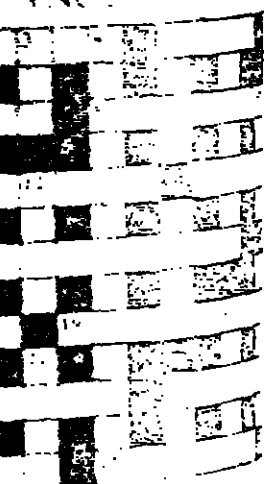
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THE ARTS

Galleries

Romanesque richness

1066
HaywardATA
Camden Arts Centre

If you are going to make an exhibition on something as expensive, distant and mysterious as 1066 (not to mention all that), then you might as well aim at being definitive. To begin with, in the most literal possible way, it is a subject which needs some defining for most of us, who vaguely recall that Norman used to come before Early English and are not quite sure whether the term favoured since the 1950s (though coined as early as 1819), Romanesque, is co-extensive with the simpler, less exact-sounding term.

On that, at least, the major show at the Hayward Gallery until July 8 immediately puts our minds at rest. In some ways it might even be useful to reverse its carefully charted course, starting at the top with the section devoted to the rediscovery of the Romanesque, primarily during the nineteenth century. If we would not expect to find guidance for today in the way Turner saw Durham Cathedral or Colman saw Norwich, at least their powerful response to the monumental directness of the architectural style might remind us of how past sensibilities have, inevitably, shaped our own.

But, after all, no doubt the best thing is to plunge right in, and let the objects on show affect us as they may. Certainly from the start the show creates confidence. I do not know how it would strike an expert who was not in any way involved, but to the layman it seems as near as may be definitive in the more general sense, showing everything among the smaller, more movable artefacts that one might expect or hope to see, right down from the Lewis Chessmen, the Gloucester Candlestick and the so-called Bury Cross.

We soon find that we have to rethink a few ideas long taken

for granted, such as that colour can have been of little importance in Romanesque art, or, if you like, art between 1066 and 1200. As early as 1780 John Carter was reconstructing the elaborate coloration of Tickenhoe chancel arch, but still we tend to judge by the pale stonework of the architecture as we have known it, forgetting the stained glass and the illuminated manuscripts.

Here the frequency and the richness of colour are amazing. Inevitably there can be only a few choice examples of the stained glass, where the colouring was at its richest and most jewel-like, and even less of the wall-painting of the period, but the manuscripts, which include most of the most famous, like the Winchester Bible, the Shafesbury Psalter, the Sherborne Cartulary, the Leofric Gospels and many more, are a blaze of colour, kept wonderfully fresh because, no doubt, seldom left open to the light. But even in the manuscripts the colours are not always bold; equally impressive are the pages in which outline drawings of exquisite delicacy and confidence are only lightly, if at all, touched with colour. And often the Norman sense of colour is most clearly in evidence through its apparent absence: what civilization has used with such total appreciation of its possibilities that most subtly coloured of all media, ivory?

It is, clearly, a matter of taste which parts of the show one finds most delectable and desirable, though I suspect many would plump for the ivories, with perhaps the enamel a close second. But there is such a profusion of stone carving and metalwork and jewellery that even an imaginary raiding mission would have great difficulty knowing where to start. And the way these riches are assembled is exemplary. The teaching purpose of the show is always present, but kept quite unobtrusive: when a small piece of metalwork or an ivory is strategically placed right next to a manuscript with kindred design elements, or as in the very opening display, one can look through a case, past a tiny piece of a cross and up to a large carved capital which

takes up the same motif. It is less like an improving lesson than being shown round by an enthusiastically expert friend. Even the dread audio-visual, filling in the vital missing dimension of the large-scale architectural setting, is sleek, entertaining and informative. The only drawback to the show, in fact, is that one might hope it would enable one to "lick the Normans off for good and all as done" and neatly stowed away, but instead it sends one out eager to see more and explore further.

At the Camden Arts Centre, finally in London after a lengthy tour, is ATA: The Story of the Artists' International Association 1933-1953 (until April 24). What lies behind these mysterious initials is a long and complicated tale, very well told in the book which accompanies the show (Oxford Museum of Modern Art, £5.25), about a whole strand of left-wing, socially and politically committed art in Britain during the troubled Thirties, the business-like war years, and the "Brave New World" of the first postwar Labour Government and the Cold War. In outline the story is familiar: a sort of loose Popular Front feeling that men of good will were all going in the same direction, reached its apogee during the Spanish Civil War, there were confusions and divisions at the time of the Nazi-Soviet pact, everyone pulled together, more or less apolitically, during the war, and then, with postwar disillusionment with the Welfare State and such, people began to drift off in different directions, and the group lost its driving force.

What is unfamiliar, and riveting, is the detail of this particular case. Though there were famous names associated with the group, and some of their work is visible in this show (at its most bizarre, perhaps, in Stanley Spencer's rather absurdly literal vision of *Love Amongst the Nations*), what is most striking is the amount of painting by artists one has hardly or never heard of, like Cliff Rowe, who specialized in basic scenes of North London life. Clive Branson, whose rendering of the working classes



A chance for imaginary raiders: The Temple Pyx (sleeping soldiers at the Holy Sepulchre), copper alloy cast and gilded, c.1140-50

at war constantly edges over into expressionism, and Peter Peri, who represents the surreal, element frequently not far below the surface in a movement which had close ties during the Thirties with such odd organizations as Mass Observation and tended to find the workers and their pattern of life worth recording as much for their strangeness as for their social significance.

One could not, hand on heart, maintain that the show uncovers an enormous amount of absolutely first-rate art, which, from political prejudice or whatever, has been up to now ignored and forgotten. (Though there are a surprising number of drawings by James Boswell in which he comes nearer than I had thought possible to a home-grown Grosz, and it is intriguing to speculate on whether

a late Thirties Coldstream like *St Pancras Station*, with its unashamed display of preparatory grids, can have helped Uglow to his best-known mannerism.) But a single painting by an unfamiliar painter, *Kensington Roofs after Fire Raid* by Martin Bloch, does point to something more substantial.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

Superb musicianship

Philharmonia/Rattle
Queen Elizabeth Hall/
Radio 3

More blessings are due to Simon Rattle and the Philharmonia for on Sunday night, midway through their season of modern Austro-Germans, shining a bright light into the darkest corner of Mahler's output: his orchestral settings of lyrics from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. This collection of patched-up folksongs provided Mahler with almost all the poetic nourishment he needed during the long years of his Second, Third and Fourth Symphonies, and provided especially words of naive piety for those works. The *Wunderhorn* had, however, other notes to play, as Sunday night's 50-minute sequence of a dozen songs reminded us.

Here were fragments from *Wozzeck* as Mahler might have written it: a journeying through songs and marches of death featuring the Soldier, the Sweetheart and the Angel.

In the first role, Thomas Allen was grim and forthright as he sang "Reveille" and "The

Drummer Boy", but he had time off from military duties to tell stories: a disarming narration of "St Anthony's Sermon to the Fishes" and a rendering of "Who thought up this song" in which he threw off the joke of sinuous, breathless moto perpetuo with panache.

Playing opposite him was Alfreda Hodgson, who was at her most spiritual for the angelic interventions of "The Sentinel's Nightsong" and did not leave go of the same perfection of tone when adding a more earthy character to her voice for "Rhine Legend" or, most cheekily, "In Praise of High Intellect".

The orchestra, with strings necessarily reduced to fit this platform, responded with intense precision to Mr Rattle's search for the most telling detail: the sharpest attack, the most sumptuously modelled string melody, the most sudden and vivid change of colour. It was a shower of superb musicianship making for a first half unsatisfactorily split between the most disjunct Webern (Op.10) and the most diluted Richard Strauss (the *Wind Sinfonia* in F).

Paul Griffiths

Bach Choir/
Willcocks
Festival Hall

Like some giant steam train wheeled out to recreate a bygone age for its devoted admirers, the annual performance of the *St Matthew Passion* by the massed forces of the Bach Choir excite more wonderment, greater respect, now that they are so blatantly anachronistic. Fashions in Bach performance may have changed, but Sir David Willcocks, guiding this familiar ritual with a steady hand, allows only small passing acknowledgements to a new age. The orchestra (the English Chamber) is smaller, some of the choir look younger, there is a new generation of fine soloists: in fact only the audience looks entirely the same.

And yet it moves. Not in all senses of the word, for it is difficult to accept some of the more laborious tempi - 12 beats in the bar for one alto aria, six for another, both valiantly sustained by Sarah Walker - as any more than demonstrations of the Levisque thesis that

one must suffer to appreciate Bach truly. The air was heavy with unarticulated, off-beat quavers (although if the strings can slur lightly in "Gebt mir meinen" why can they not in "Am Abend" and a dozen other places?) and the plod of the bass was often relentless.

But still, the emotion was palpable: the choir sang superbly with as much precision as they could possibly be expected to muster. "Barabas" was oddly thrown away, but Willcocks's tempi in the choruses were far more apt than in the arias. To omit the wind from the chorale after Christ's death was, however, an act of the purest sentimentality.

Even in the unhelpful English translation it was good to hear a new Evangelist with the conviction of Maldwyn Davies: a trifle stentorian, every note hammered into place, but it fitted well, as did Stephen Roberts's more familiar but now vividly characterized Pilate. Jennifer Smith's innate musicality survived a final aria taken at a desolate tramp, and William Kendall was attractively light-voiced in the tenor arias.

Nicholas Kenyon

Perlman/Canino
Festival Hall

Itzhak Perlman is that rarity among violinists, a player who makes ravishingly beautiful sounds and whose technique is superbly assured, yet who always glorifies the music rather than himself. Bruno Canino is no less an artist, and here his piano accompaniments were meticulously balanced, in moments of dominance as well as deference.

Canino's dryness in Bach's C minor Violin Sonata, BWV 1017, made an apt foil to Perlman's romantic yet always clean approach. Perlman punctuated his phrases, through subtle inflexion rather than overt breath, but this served only to emphasize the depth of his understanding.

If there were doubts here about Perlman's ability to articulate, crisply, they were quickly dispelled by his quick-witted response to Beethoven's Sonata, Op. 12 No. 3. Both players captured the robust humour of the first movement, but they did not neglect the stormier side of the music.

either. The speed of the Adagio was beautifully judged, maintaining a sense of stillness while paradoxically sustaining a compelling momentum.

Saint-Saens's First Violin Sonata arguably lacks the greatness of either of these works. But it deserves its place in the repertoire, treading successfully the treacherous path between Teutonic seriousness and Gallic levity with a mixture of deeply felt drama, spectacle and charm.

Perlman and Canino, very much equal partners here, brought the work off marvelously. The hair-raising moments (notably the astonishing unison semiquavers near the end) were full of assurance and vitality, while the more reflective passages were thoughtful and mellow.

The American composer Earl Kim's 12 Caprices for solo violin (1980) provided the evening's only disappointment. Worthy though Perlman's advocacy was, Kim's idiomatic and technically challenging music does not really feel like the organic unity it is supposed to be.

Stephen Pettitt

A big week for the Royal Ballet: organizing and inspiring the effort are Norman Morrice and Anthony Russell Roberts. John Percival investigates their collaboration

Dancing attendance

David Bintley's new work based on Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, with a score specially written by Peter McGowan, has its premiere at Sadler's Wells tonight. Tomorrow at Covent Garden, Derek Deane's first full-scale ballet, *Fleeting Figures* (set to Josef Suk's *Serenade for Strings*) is premiered on the same bill as the company's first production by the much-acclaimed Jiri Kylian, *Return to the Strange Land*. Then, on Friday, Sadler's Wells has another new work, *Common Ground*, by Jennifer Jackson, another newcomer to full-scale choreography for the professional repertoire.

Yet backstage at Covent Garden last week the atmosphere was calm, above all in the small, unlabelled office of Norman Morrice, director of the Royal Ballet. When he took over the job, suddenly and unexpectedly, seven years ago, he made clear that he expected a long haul before any changes became apparent.

Since then, only one of his actions has impinged much on public consciousness, when he decided for a time to invite no guest stars so as to give more chances for young dancers within the company to develop and tackle big roles. That was unpopular with many spectators, but most would accept that it has paid. Apart from that, Morrice kept so low a profile that there were even complaints of inertia in the company's progress.

Yet the present conjunction of premises did not come about by accident. It springs from Morrice's long-held dedication to encouraging creative effort, combined with the help of an invaluable new ally. The post of administrative director of the Royal Ballet was created last year for Anthony Russell Roberts. For a ballet company that has to share premises, orchestra, support staff and board of directors with an opera company, Russell Roberts has one immense advantage. He has worked on the other side of the fence, first as assistant to Sir John Tooley, at Covent Garden, then as artistic administrator at the Paris Opera, so he knows the operatic ropes and can advise accordingly.

Morrice explains one of the benefits: "When we are planning our seasons, Anthony can look at the opera company's commitments and, because he knows their orchestral and stage requirements, might say that there would be difficulties in choosing one time for a new work, and can point out another time that would be far better for us."

Russell Roberts chairs a committee to coordinate the work of the two companies but

is obviously happy that informal contact and cooperation between them is also running more smoothly. One example he gives is that the lighting consultants to the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera have got together to achieve compatibility between the different lighting requirements of the two arts.

He also, by attending many of the meetings which are unavoidable in a big, complex organization, frees Morrice both for more day-to-day contact with the ballet company and for longer-term planning.

Between them, the two men are also trying to organize future seasons so that big foreign tours fall every other year, allowing a "home year" in between them for the dancers to recover from the extra strain. Not that a season at Covent Garden is actually a rest-cure. They have only one month at the beginning devoted entirely to rehearsal, during which three programmes are got ready; thereafter new programmes are in preparation by day, with performances in the evenings, usually three or four each week.

Morrice would be happier if there could be more periods for rehearsal only, interspersed with periods of giving seven or eight performances in a week. That is one of the reasons why he welcomes the company's commitment, as part of the Arts Council's new strategy, to consolidating links with selected cities outside London - Liverpool, Manchester and Plymouth, as well as Birmingham, which is already a second home to Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. "Another advantage is that it will permit us to give more performances of programmes that have been prepared for Covent Garden and given only five or six times, thus getting the benefit of the effort that has gone into them, and allowing the dancers more opportunities to work on a role."

Those who think of Covent Garden as elitist might be surprised to hear the enthusiasm with which Morrice and Russell Roberts discuss ways of reaching new audiences. Performing in the Big Top in Battersea Park has been proved to attract spectators who might be deterred by the prices or reputation of the Royal Opera House, so they hope to repeat that every two years. They also want to reach the crowds who throng the Covent Garden area nowadays, and look forward to the next phase of rebuilding the Opera House which will provide a studio where informal lunchtime programmes could be given.

Suggestions of inertia seem



Morrice (top) and Russell Roberts: aiming for new audiences

far from the mark, especially with this season's schedule of new works. Sadly, Morrice has had to give up one hope, for a complete programme of new works by unestablished choreographers to be given several performances at Covent Garden this summer, because it became clear that two of the aspirants who would have been contributing to it could not be ready in time as a result of heavy performing schedules.

Morrice is wholly committed to presenting new work, and wishes that more people shared his belief that a ballet, if properly prepared, is worth seeing irrespective of whether or not it succeeds. Russell Roberts has the more prosaic job of helping to ensure, in conjunction with the marketing department, that seats get sold, and notes that ballet and opera this season are running neck and neck with audiences about 87 or 88 per cent of capacity. Not bad for adventurous programming in the middle of an economic crisis.

To miss Kudo would mean missing an experience unforgettable indeed.

01-836 0103

Television

Close-ups on private anguish

Coping (Channel 4) is a new series which documents the effects of certain enduring human tragedies, and this first episode concerned Andrea, a two-year-old in a 16-year-old body: she suffers from brain damage which has provoked spasticity as well as epilepsy. The dominant image, however, was of her parents, clearly brave and intelligent people who described their situation very simply, and with that clarity which horrendous events often impose upon otherwise "normal" lives.

I have written before about the dubious ethics involved in publicizing private grief in this manner - essentially by turning it into a form of public spectacle - but I received many letters suggesting that such pro-

grammes in fact assist others in dealing with similar problems. If that is the case, then no doubt a series like *Coping* is of some benefit. But, as television cameras peer more and more closely into people's frustrated or damaged lives, the absence of any serious debate about the nature of such intrusions is a little worrying.

The distinction between matters which are properly of public interest, and those which evoke only temporary pity or a meretricious "concern", is a fine one. On the evidence of last night's programme, however, *Coping* has avoided using private grief as a form of entertainment.

It seems that television comedy is keeping on top of current events with *The Kit*

Curran Radio Show (Thames), a parody of local broadcasting. And Denis Lawson deserves some kind of award (a new flowered shirt?) for his performance as the disc-jockey, as laid back as a Wilton carpet, as slippery as a snake in a Vaseline jar. In fact all of the performances are of a consistently high standard, and the script is certainly superior to most television comedy - which still seems fixed in some suburban twilight where frustrated mothers and disagreeable teenagers children bicker over the toast. Last night's episode even managed some jokes about Freemasons, who are rapidly becoming the contemporary equivalent of the Keystone Kops.

Peter Ackroyd

On November 13, 1974,

Karen Silkwood, an employee of a nuclear facility, left to meet with a reporter from the New York Times.

She never got there.



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THE TIMES DIARY

Ars gratia artis?

Only 10 days after scores of grants to arts companies were axed by the Arts Council, I hear that Lord Gower, the Arts Minister, is redecorating his Whitehall office for £10,000, at government expense, the paint alone costing £800. As his designers he chose Conran Associates, the company owned by his old friend Sir Terence Conran, who runs the Habitat/Mothercare chain. Yesterday the firm said that Conran had not masterminded the project personally. A pity. It could have served as a useful diversion from his plans to rip out the 1930s windows from Heals. After the idea was disclosed in this column, Sir Terence protested that his empire was not full of "money-grubbing insensitive philistines". With a £10,000 commission from Lord Gower, I should hope not.

Falling for it

Perhaps the most obvious April Fool's day hoax was *The Sunday Times* story about a £50m scheme using driverless buses in London. "Secret early morning test runs for the bus have gone well", it said. If you believe that, you believe anything. Not so the Department of Transport and the GLC. On the Monday morning, London Transport received an irate call from a Transport under-secretary, who demanded to know why he had not been told, and lodged a request for further details. My source, who refused to name the victim - saying only that he was "very senior in the Ministry" - tells me the call was followed by one from another "fool" - David Bayliss, the GLC's chief transport planner. Yesterday Bayliss admitted that he had called for further details but protested that, of course, he knew all along it was just a hoax. Not content with the joke so far, the LT board then passed a motion censuring Dr David Quarby, head of LT's buses, for not briefing his superiors on the scheme. LT's chairman, Dr Keith Bright, can laugh: fearing he too might be fooled, his secretary attached a note to his copy of *The Sunday Times*, marked: "Take note of the date".

Missing pages

Allow me to tell you who will not be exhibiting at the London Book Fair, which opens at the Barbican tonight. Penguin, Cape, Weidenfeld, Pan, Macmillan, André Deutsch, the Bodley Head, Chatto and Windus, Heinemann, Secker and Warburg, Granada, Collins. I am told they grudge paying the £600 which £40 less well-known representatives have coughed up.

BARRY FANTONI



"Actually I'm studying for AA level"

Curtain drop

The first public show of *Breakneck*, a play about the Ruth Ellis hanging, was due to go ahead last night after a last-minute panic over eight undomesticated pigeons. The birds were hired by the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, in London, to create an atmosphere of dereliction and ruin for the set of the Knightsbridge club which Ellis ran before her execution. But at last week's rehearsals the pigeons failed to return to their cages. Instead they took refuge in the theatre rafters where they happily remained until Ellis shot her lover - a noise alarming that the drama below turned into a farce amid a torrent of pigeon droppings. A safety sheet has now been erected over the stage, while I am told that "Ivan the pigeon man" from Essex, who hired them for £25 a day, is unlikely to receive his fee.

Sour milk

After being attacked by campaigners over his Abortion (Amendment) Bill, and more recently his proposed Bill to outlaw video nasties, Tory MP John Corrie is now being threatened by Mrs Thatcher and her Agriculture Minister, Michael Jopling. Their EEC agreement to curb milk production - which could put every sixth British dairy farmer out of business - is set to make a mockery of Corrie's six years' work expanding his 600-acre dairy farm in Kirkcubright. Encouraged by an earlier EEC scheme, he had increased his dairy herd from 80 to 200 Friesians, and has just built a costly extension to his milking parlour. Another potential dairy farming casualty is Alick Buchanan-Smith, the North Sea oil minister, who farms in Balerno, Midlothian. Yesterday the men were keeping a diplomatic silence - a silence, I suspect, they will break only when their leader milks them dry.

PHS

Let Londoners decide

by Ken Livingstone

The Commons tomorrow debates the second reading of a Bill with a unique and dangerous purpose - the cancellation of elections to a democratic body. The Government proposes that before either House has considered its detailed plans to abolish the Greater London Council and the six other metropolitan authorities, Parliament should vote to cancel the elections to these bodies, one to be held in May 1985.

In London on May 6, 1985, the Labour administration elected in May 1981 will be in office, with Labour holding 48 seats to the Conservatives' 41 and the Alliance's three. The next day, an administration of councillors appointed by the boroughs, with a Tory majority of at least 14, will take office. No one in London will have cast a vote. There will have been no public debate. Such transfer of power from an elected to an unelected body is unprecedented. So too is the proposal to cancel elections altogether. I have been forced to conclude that the Prime Minister does not wish this election to take place because she suspects the present GLC is far from being the unpopular administration that ministers proclaim.

As Tom King, Employment Secretary, told the House on March 26 when referring to the Trade Union Bill, democracy is based on: "the right of people to mark a paper to register their vote. I am not sure who would oppose that". If this principle is to be applied to trade unions, it is incomprehensible that it should not be applied to London's government.

The Government says it is committed to abolishing the GLC. But the last Conservative manifesto made no mention of cancelling next May's elections. When the Government presents its proposals for abolition, Parliament can decide on that issue and if appropriate set a date for the council's abolition. Meanwhile, the due constitutional processes can and should operate.

Abolition of the GLC does not depend on whether the elections go ahead. The fact is, the Government would be highly embarrassed by a London election in which abolition was the central issue. Independent opinion polls show deep popular hostility to abolition. A MORI poll in *The Standard* on March 26 showed that Londoners oppose abolition by three to one. It is an extraordinary comment on the Government that it is prepared to set the dangerous precedent of cancelling elections to avoid the embarrassment of having its proposals defeated at the polls.

The Government often suggests that the GLC is unrepresentative. Yet at the last three GLC elections more people turned out than for borough elections - and this Labour administration was returned with 42 per cent of the vote, the same as that won by the Government in June. Ministers maintain that GLC abolition is not party political. Why then, in his celebrated speech in London on March 14, did Norman Tebbit say: "The Labour Party is the party of

division. In its present form it represents a threat to the democratic values and institutions on which our parliamentary system is based. The GLC is typical of this new, modern, divisive version of socialism. It must be defeated. So we shall abolish the GLC."

Is this the reason behind the Prime Minister's determination to see this council abolished? If so, it is a cynical perversion, for party political benefit, of this country's democratic tradition. It would be a constitutional outrage for any government to abolish a democratic institution because it did not like the incumbent administration. Imagine the outcry if a Labour government decided to abolish Surrey County Council because of its politics.

My administration is not afraid to go before the London electorate and seek its verdict on our performance and policies. Indeed, we look forward to doing so next May.

This Bill is an undemocratic outrage which has few friends among Government supporters. The country has seen it for the constitutional mockery it is. In the coming weeks Parliament can put democratic values before party advantage and force the Government to rethink Let MPs vote if they wish to abolish the GLC when the Bill comes before the House - but in the meantime do not take away the people's right to decide how the capital should be governed.

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Death and politics: George Brock analyses the Northern Ireland issues

Ulster: why Westminster has its eye on the Forum

The quickening pace of murder in Northern Ireland is a sombre indication that the latest in a series of waiting games is coming to an end. At one remove from the deaths on the streets, political initiatives are drawn up and launched one after the other. There is never a complete hiatus: there is always another one coming along.

Since the faint hopes for Mr James Prior's local assembly faded, politicians both north and south of the border have been waiting for the final report of the New Ireland Forum. By raising the levels of fear and anger, the Provisional IRA is paying it the grim compliment of taking it seriously.

The Forum began as a modest head-banging exercise to be conducted inside the Catholic-nationalist community. Mr John Hume, leader of the beleaguered Social Democratic and Labour Party, had become infuriated by the wayward volatility of the Republic's politicians during the hunger strikes of 1980 and 1981 and wanted a parade ground on which they could be more efficiently lined up. The Forum has now become a peg on which greater expectations hang. The final report of nearly a year's sessions attended by the leaders of the Republic's political parties and the SDLP is now expected next week.

There is no evidence that Northern Ireland unionists are any better disposed to the Forum's rumoured list of proposals than they were before the members began assembling and digesting the copious evidence. It is at least true, however, that the likely three options - straight reunification, a "federal" united Ireland and joint Anglo-Irish sovereignty over the north - are markedly more moderate than anything on which Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and the Irish Labour Party have ever been able to agree.

But the most interesting question mark hangs over the reaction in London. Unionists have predictably suggested that any favourable British reaction would be treachery, and the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garrett FitzGerald, has just as predictably asserted that it is vital for London to pay attention to the

Cartoonist
Martyn Turner's
Valentine view of
the New Ireland
Forum and its
leading members:
(left to right)
John Hume of the
SDLP, Dick
Spring of Labour,
Charles Haughey
of Fianna Fail
and Garrett
FitzGerald of
Fine Gael



report. London is not formally committed to do anything; it is likely at least to express polite interest.

The report will only exert real pressure on the British government in proportion to the degree of realism and unanimity it displays.

But there are a number of interesting factors which make this an unusually interesting opportunity for Mr Thatcher. Government policy towards Northern Ireland is Prime Ministerial policy. Mr Prior cannot be under any illusions that he could run a policy of his own without support from the top.

Accordingly, ministers and officials have been quietly busy for some months trying gently to raise the previously very low level of prime ministerial interest in the subject. Some success has registered. The "Union Jack" group of Tories and Official Unionists who press the claims of full integration into the UK for Northern Ireland failed to make any impression on the 1983 election manifesto, or to shift Mr Prior from his job, and have been relatively quiet ever since.

Mrs Thatcher is once again keen to "do" something. She is leaving it to others to organize the details but she has made it clear that she now has some time and energy for the problem. She is genuinely concerned about the deaths of soldiers - a feeling accentuated by her experience during the Falklands campaign - and is ready to contemplate any proposal that offers hope that the killing can be stopped.

The quality of the current opportunity has been pointed out to her. For the first time in several

years there are governments in both London and Dublin with a stable future. Her first spasm of interest in Northern Ireland eventually led to acrimonious disagreement with Mr Charles Haughey, who is now in opposition. Her personal relationship with Dr FitzGerald has so far survived well.

The threat from Provisional Sinn Féin has also been emphasized, not least by Dublin. It is not the argument runs in British interests to allow the SDLP to be squeezed out of existence by Provisional Sinn Féin's post-hunger strike successes at the polls: dramatic pictures have been drawn of the anarchy that would follow the disappearance of the only constitutional nationalist party. In last June's general election, SDLP candidates collected 137,000 votes against Sinn Féin's 102,000. The SDLP cannot afford to relax before the European elections, let alone the local government elections due next year.

If anyone doubted the Forum's significance, the Provisionals have underlined their view with more murders. Because of the hermetic seal which separates discussion of political policy and arguments about violence, the connexion has been little remarked. But that separation is artificial: violence has a profound influence on what politicians can do and say.

There is a close link between possible political progress which threatens to move the Provisionals out of the limelight and sudden increases in death and injury. The tactic was perhaps most spectacularly visible as the power-sharing executive collapsed 10 years ago.

Last month saw a spate of five deaths in 12 days, including the shooting of an assistant governor of the Maze. Although the Provisionals were not solely responsible, their shootings accelerated the grim spiral.

Those who judge the psychological rather than the simply physical effects of Provisional attacks have by now a finely-tuned sense of the atrocity which will grab a headline, rather than the killing which will only rate a short paragraph or a few seconds of television news-time. It takes only one such horror at the wrong moment to drive every politician back to the solid certainties of upholding the rule of law and to retreat from taking the risks of supporting new ideas. To write this is not to put ideas in Provo heads: they are there already.

None of this means that the Forum is a new dawn. The remorseless postponing of its final report has increased the chances that the parties will not agree on anything much: they may simply list constitutional options without expressing a preference. That will leave London little to react to and little leverage for a government in Dublin which might otherwise have wanted to embarrass Britain into reacting to demonstrable progress.

Presentation will be important. If presenting their report, the parties contrive to emphasize their differences at the expense of their agreements, there will also be an anti-climax. Not only do the party leaders need to agree on a report, but they would also need to keep supporting it in the future.

Wing-clipping for the hawkish Reagan

Washington. As commander-in-chief of the United States, armed forces, President Reagan has the constitutional right to commit troops when, where, and on whatever scale he wishes. Congress has grown nervous of such power. It is demanding the right to decide that a president is wrong, that involvement in a conflict is mistaken, that the troops should be ordered home. Not since Vietnam has there been such an ideological battle between the White House and Capitol Hill over which branch of government should have the power to wage war.

Reagan invaded Grenada, sent the marines to Lebanon and has embarked on a policy of military belligerence in Central America - all without consulting Congress. If pushed far enough, he is prepared to petition the Supreme Court to rule on whether Congress has any constitutional authority to restrain him.

Presidents, not Congress, took America into Korea and Vietnam. After Vietnam, Congress decided, somewhat reluctantly, that it must curb the presidential war-making authority. In 1973 it passed the War Powers Act, which lays down precise ground rules to bring Congress into the process.

The constitution gives Congress the sole right to declare war but gives the commander-in-chief full authority to deploy troops at his own discretion. The Vietnam conflict, in which the US never formally declared war, triggered the issue

between Congress and the executive. The US military involvement in Lebanon last year revived it. President Reagan's increasing entanglement in El Salvador has again brought it to a head. George Shultz, Secretary of State, complained last week that congressional curbs were depriving the president of flexibility and weakening the US. "Surely there can be accountability without paralysis", he said.

The War Powers Act requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours after he sends US troops into hostile situations. It prohibits him from deploying troops in those areas for more than 90 days unless Congress declares war or states in a joint resolution - passed by both houses - that they can remain. The provision subverts his constitutional role as commander-in-chief. Although the measure has never been used, its very existence has had a distinct psychological effect on the White House, deterring its autonomy in such a vital area. During the Lebanon entanglement the White House was indignant that Congress so blatantly questioned the President's right to implement his own foreign policy.

Now President Reagan's policies in Central America - his intensifying proxy war in El Salvador, his moral and financial support of guerrillas in Nicaragua, his increasing deployment of the armed forces in and around the region - are hardening Congress's mood.

At the weekend, Daniel Moynihan, senior Democratic senator, said he would call for a halt to aid to anti-Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua unless the mining of Nicaraguan ports was stopped.



Senator Daniel Moynihan: pressure on Reagan to stop mining Nicaraguan ports

ministration to move cautiously, especially in election year. George Shultz is as belligerent as Reagan on foreign policy issues. He shares the President's distaste for congressional restraint and the increasing congressional tendency to interfere with the executive's foreign policy.

For example, there are determined efforts to withhold \$250m that the executive wishes to give in military aid to Turkey. There are moves to end military assistance and arms sales to Pakistan. And the President's wish to give more military aid to El Salvador has met severe obstacles.

Senator Edward Kennedy and other leading Democrats claim that President Reagan is leading the United States towards direct military intervention in Central America. "Ronald Reagan does not want to be bound, even by the War Powers Act, if he decides to go to war in El Salvador", he said.

Most of Congress is still not ready to challenge the executive with the sort of full-frontal attack that Kennedy favours. The office of president is held in too much respect for that. But presidential power over foreign policy issues in general, and over military interventions in particular, is being gently, but definitely, eroded.

Christopher Thomas

Roger Scruton

Lords, heed our prayer

When Parliament in 1974 entrusted the Anglican liturgy to the Church of England, it hastened the process of disestablishment, whereby the national church has become one contending sect among many, distinguished only by the residual and largely unused privileges of its bishops. The most important consequence was that, for the first time in its history, the Church of England was free to ignore completely the wishes of its congregation, whose representatives in Parliament could do no more than utter words of impotent dismay at the ensuing sacrifice.

The Book of Common Prayer - that priceless repository of Anglican emotion, whose inspired language joins together eternal destiny with an enduring, but temporal, political allegiance - this book which had dispensed its sacred consolations through four centuries of social change, suddenly disappeared from the churches, to be replaced by "Alternative Services" written in the fickle idiom of human liberation. C. H. Sisson (*PN Review* No. 2) summed the matter up in the following words:

It was one of the great conquests of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that the Church commanded a language at once profound and familiar. Now, after immense deliberations, it injects trashy and unmeaningful speech even into the liturgy. There is no such thing as passing on profound truths in superficial speech.

Sisson was merely one among many distinguished writers. Christian and non-Christian, who joined the movement of protest against the new liturgies and who influenced Parliament to discuss the matter again in The Prayer Book (Protection) Bill of 1981. This movement was not comprised only of disenchanted intellectuals, lamenting (to use the words of the Book which they defended) that "there was never any thing by the wit of man so well devised, or so surely established, which in continuance of time hath not been corrupted".

Opinion polls, both here and in America, showed a majority of Anglican churchgoers to be in favour of the old service: spokesmen for the main political parties, university teachers, and almost the entire national press agreed with them.

Only one section of the community seemed unpersuaded: the clergy of the Church of England. Only clergymen and their immediate associates were prepared to deny what was evident to most of their congregation: namely, that the language of the "alternative" services (which rapidly became alternative only in name) is more profane than common, and more suited to idle conversation than to prayer. It is a language which lacks both the sacred quality of liturgical utterance and the dignity of an experience consciously fought for, and consciously shared.

Robin Cook

Trident: pinpoint provocation

History is littered with rich illustrations of the time-lag between an advance in military technology and appreciation of its implications. The high point in the medieval art of armory comes a full century after the advent of the gunpowder which was to render it wholly ineffectual. The War Office established a number of tank regiments in the wake of the First World War, but prepared for the next war by increasing the complement of horses allocated to the officers of such regiments.

In no previous case, however, have the results of such delay between perception and military reality been so profound as the potential consequences of the popular misconception that nuclear strategy still revolves around deterrence.

There are obvious reasons why the military would not find deterrence a congenial doctrine. It is the nature of military forces that they should be combative and competitive. Deterrence left them with an inglorious passive role in which they were expected to wait on an attack on the homeland and then gather together such forces as survived and extract posthumous revenge.

Even then the military mind found it difficult to drop traditional notions of victory. The US Navy marked the deployment of seaborne bombers with a press release which assured the American public that if their continent was devastated it would still be possible for the Navy to go in and "win" the war from its carrier fleets.

To be fair, any serious attempt by the military to honour the requirements of deterrence theory was rendered impossible by the role of nuclear weapons to deter not only a nuclear attack, but any conventional attack as well.

If the function of nuclear weapons is to prevent nuclear war, it should not be deployed in a manner that threatens to precipitate nuclear war. However, if they are also supposed to deter a non-nuclear attack it is essential that the nuclear arsenal is deployed in a way which will ensure that any conventional conflict inevitably escalates to nuclear holocaust. Hence the variety of battlefield nuclear warheads cluttering Central Europe to ensure that nuclear weapons cannot be kept out of any war across that territory.

The paradox is tacitly expressed by NATO's repeated assurances that its nuclear weapons are for deterrence only, combined with a persistent refusal to renounce their first use. Yet what finally destroyed

it is to be supposed that the ordinary worshipper in the Church of England attends services not from some merely private enthusiasm, however evangelical, but from a desire to worship God in a way that also renews the validity of his earthly ties. Modern Europeans are, however, so sophisticated, weighed down by an indefeasible obligation to the unborn and the dead. They worship God easily only through forms and liturgies which enable them (in the words of a great Czech philosopher) to "confess to history": in other words, to accept the bond which unites them with those who have yet to be. We should, it may be surmised, therefore, if the "Alternative Services" have failed in their professed aim, of filling the churches.

The Church of England derives its claim to liturgical authority from precisely those historical ties which attach its congregation to the Book of Common Prayer. After decades of facilitation there are signs that the Church is once more aware of this all-important truth, and prepared to be more generous towards those who live by it.

Six weeks ago, the Archbishop of Canterbury published an article in the *Daily Telegraph* in which he upheld the indisputable claim of the Book of Common Prayer, arguing that "no one ought to leave a theological college without demonstrating a knowledge of the Prayer Book, and having experienced it in living worship". The Archbishop's view was more recently echoed by a leader in the *Church Times* (March 29).

However, theological colleges, having largely rejected earthly authorities, including those essential to the continuance of a national church, are unlikely, without further prompting, to respond to such calls. There is a growing body of evidence that those who prepare men for the Anglican priesthood remain wedded to the "alternative" services, and not the view that the Book of Common Prayer is antiquated, merely because it is - like all religion - mysterious. Such a view is the enemy of liturgical utterance. It fails to see the true purpose of liturgy, which is to provide the language through which the sacred may be apprehended. If you doubt the value of such a purpose, then remember that it is only in such a language that a dying person can be consoled.

Tomorrow, however, a new Prayer Book (Protection) Bill will be given a second reading in the House of Lords. There is a faint hope that, on this occasion, Parliament may respond to the pleas of Anglican believers and establish a select committee, empowered to examine the fate of Cranmer's liturgy. And when all is said and done, the fate of Cranmer's liturgy is also the fate of the Anglican Church.



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DISTRUST AND DISGUST

The United States Administration has been studying evidence of a spectacular and alarming decline in British public support for its policies. The major decline in this support seems to have occurred within the last 18 months, and most severely since last July. British public confidence in American foreign policy now appears to be at its lowest since the mid 1960s. Nearly two thirds of the adult population of this country appear to lack confidence in American foreign policy, a higher proportion now than in West Germany where there has been traditionally more scepticism of the American image.

There is a tendency both in Britain and in West Germany to accord equal responsibility to the United States and the Soviet Union for the failure of the Geneva INF talks. Whereas the prevailing view in Germany is that the United States is continuing to make a genuine arms control effort, in proportions of about 2 to 1 without much change since last summer, the favourable image of the United States in Britain dropped sharply from a nearly two thirds majority last July to an even division now.

What must be even more alarming for American policy makers is that there has been a sharp increase in Britain in the belief that American policies endanger peace. In fact it appears that more Britons now believe that American policies and actions during the last year have increased the risk of war than those who think that this would be true of Soviet policies. In the last 18 months this negative view of the United States has almost doubled in strength, whereas only about 16 per cent of the adult population now feel

that recent American policies have promoted peace, not much more than the proportion who feel that about Soviet policies.

Though this negative image of American foreign policy does not appear to translate exactly into anti-Americanism there has been a marked decline in the previously substantial majority for pro-American sentiments both in Britain and in West Germany. Moreover, what must cause even more concern in Washington is the fact that the views of the younger university educated classes in both countries are decidedly more negative toward the United States than those of the general public.

It was thus timely yesterday for Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, to address the question: "The Super Powers - Is There A Moral Difference?" since there appears to be an alarming number of people in this country who do not think that there is. We have to turn no further than to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, for the statement that there is "an equity of menace" in the super powers. But we should not feel in Europe that we can luxuriate in such a sense of moral superiority without grave consequences for the Alliance.

As Mrs Kirkpatrick warned: "The suggestion that the United States and the Soviet Union are morally equivalent, that with regard to method and policies there is a rough moral symmetry, is now common enough among our closest allies that its expression no longer causes shock in Europe. Obviously this is a serious matter. We are democratic countries in which broad consensus is required to sustain foreign policy. If the opinion that the United States is

a lawless, reckless gunslinger spreads widely enough, the Alliance will simply collapse by mutual consent of distrust on the European side and disgust on the American side."

There is no good justifying the evidence that people feel this way. The first question that has to be asked is: Do the facts fit? Mrs Kirkpatrick eloquently disposed of many of the myths associated with American activities in Salvador, Nicaragua and Grenada. "The level of outrage," she said, "far exceeds the level of information." Dealing with Europe's apparently fastidious distaste for the use of American force to create conditions in which democracy can be reasserted, or to liberate states which have been denied democracy, she said, "We found it really unbelievable that countries which themselves so recently were liberated by forces from the occupying troops and Quisling governments of Nazi tyrants, or who participated in that liberation, should have been unable to distinguish between forces used to conquer and victimise and forces used to liberate."

Though the facts do not fit the argument which suggests that there is "an equity of menace" it has become pervasively fashionable among the so-called enlightened classes of Europe. It is a hard myth to dispel which catches the imagination of the educated classes; yet it must be dispelled if the Alliance is to survive and prosper as one must assume that leaders of both sides of the Atlantic hope that it will. A concerted effort of leadership is required as much from Europeans leading their public opinion away from false images, rather than following it, as from Americans like Mrs Kirkpatrick going on to meet the arguments head on.

CAN EUROPE, AND GERMANY, GROW UP?

There is now a rapidly growing momentum behind the idea that Europe must develop more coherent ideas of its own on defence and foreign affairs. There are several reasons for this gathering sense of urgency. First of all the stresses suffered by the alliance since the decision to deploy new intermediate range missiles in Europe have shown up weaknesses. Instead of having the intended effect of reassuring Europe by reinforcing the coupling of its own defence with that of the United States it has had the opposite effect among some Europeans, fostering fears that the Americans might want to fight a limited war in Europe.

When this new and encouraging landscape was surveyed at the last weekend's 34th meeting of the Anglo-German Königs-winter conference there was practically unanimous agreement that something had to be done if Europe was not to drift into political and economic weakness, risking a dwindling of American interest in Europe and/or an increase in the tendency of the United States to make its own decisions and interventions around the world without reference to European interests. Some leading Germans also fear that if the rising generations come to see no point in the European Community other than dealing with butter and budgets they could begin moving towards a more purely national view of their problems and aspirations.

The difficulty is to find the best way of getting Europe together on security and international issues. The Stuttgart

declaration last year put "political and economic aspects of security" on the Community's agenda, but the existing machinery for political cooperation, though it works well on some issues, is hamstrung on defence issues by Ireland's neutrality, Greece's independent foreign policies, Denmark's resistance to the deployment of new missiles, and other problems.

France some time ago suggested using the Western European Union, a hitherto somewhat moribund institution set up in 1955 after the collapse of plans for a European defence community. Left behind the military debates of Nato and the economic debates of the Community it has played a rather marginal role in political discussion of European matters.

To be any use it would have to be enlarged - Norway would be an early candidate - and it would have to make Germany an equal participant. Restrictions on West Germany's naval ship-building were removed in 1980 but there are still restrictions on building long-range missiles and bombers. They should go. Perhaps the West Germans would want their abolition handled cautiously so as not to give propaganda points to Moscow and Eastern Europe. But if West Germany is to take its full share of responsibility in the alliance it will have to be treated as a full member of the WEU, and not be held on some kind of probation under formal restrictions which do not apply to the other members. The WEU could get this process going; later it might become necessary to look for new structures.

make a formal claim, preferring to bandy a completely unrealistic amount, 12.5 per cent, hoping for the ancient art of educational pay arbitration - splitting the difference.

The councils have now called the teachers' bluff. If they do not use the forthcoming Easter vacation, a season for union conferences, to resolve to return to the Burnham table, then 1984 may teach a further lesson. This is to be the first year of rate capping. That means, effectively, that council spending will for the first time in certain areas be cash-limited. Above 3-4 per cent the teachers' settlement, the largest single element in the local authority pay round, could be purchased only at the expense of jobs. That might be no bad thing. A shake-out between public and private sector careers is overdue. Provision there must be for recruitment of high quality teachers. But an across-the-board and above-the-norm pay rise for the generation of teachers in post is necessitated neither by the conditions of their supply and demand nor by the longer-run re-structuring of rewards in a changing profession.

TEACHING A BAD EXAMPLE

Even if teachers had a cast iron case for exemption from the pay round built into public spending plans, it would never have justified the speed with which their union leaders last week asked from the bargaining table a order "industrial action" in the schools. As ever, professional people's syndicalism is an undignified sight, where children are the only victims of an unwholesome lesson.

Yet part of that lesson will be about self injury, or rather injury to the interests of this and the next generation of teachers by union leaders whose only public utterances seems to be a snarl and whose sole negotiating tactic is a walk-out. At long last this spring, talks had begun, falteringly, outside the Burnham committee, on re-shaping the entire salary and career structure of a profession in the throes of tumultuous change. Teachers cannot argue with the facts of demography: some are having to move home and job because of inevitable school closures and veridical changes in the balance of subjects; there is a paramount need to secure an entry for new blood, (motivated perhaps by

higher pay rates). Salary negotiations in 1984 ought to have had these wider issues at the head of the agenda. Instead, as usual, perceived historical injustice - that bane of British pay bargaining - and short term money considerations were uppermost.

Of course the teachers have a strong case for a rise that would push their average to £8,200 a year: understandably, a decade on, they wonder about Labour's great Houghton salary review which now appears to have been worthless. But their employers, the local authorities, living in the real world, have a strong response. Council budgets for 1984-85 are already set; their contributions to teacher pensions recently rose: this is a world in which the claims of history or occupational comparison have little room. On neither side has the conduct of the pay negotiations been exemplary. Employers appeared stuck on one figure, 3 per cent, while council treasurers up and down the land let it be known they had squirrelled away up to 4.5 per cent. Teacher unions refused to

make a formal claim, preferring to bandy a completely unrealistic amount, 12.5 per cent, hoping for the ancient art of educational pay arbitration - splitting the difference.

The councils have now called the teachers' bluff. If they do not use the forthcoming Easter vacation, a season for union conferences, to resolve to return to the Burnham table, then 1984 may teach a further lesson. This is to be the first year of rate capping. That means, effectively, that council spending will for the first time in certain areas be cash-limited. Above 3-4 per cent the teachers' settlement, the largest single element in the local authority pay round, could be purchased only at the expense of jobs. That might be no bad thing. A shake-out between public and private sector careers is overdue. Provision there must be for recruitment of high quality teachers. But an across-the-board and above-the-norm pay rise for the generation of teachers in post is necessitated neither by the conditions of their supply and demand nor by the longer-run re-structuring of rewards in a changing profession.

Coordination of Service staffs

From Lord Trenchard

Sir, With regard to the proposed new organization at the Ministry of Defence, may I express my concern, with experience of trying to reconcile the separate and enormously expensive requirements for defence equipment, add a word.

How can our uniquely excellent professional Services in their separate elements remain so without a top policy staff? How can each Chief of Staff (acting as a general manager without a staff) give advice of value to the Chief of Defence Staff without his own staff? How can staff officers removed from constant interface with their Service remain balanced and practical? How can future policy staffs be developed?

Defence is based on Nato. Even when we changed our ministerial organization to a functional multi-Service basis in 1981, we found some problems because no one else had done so. These problems at professional Service level are much more important. The close working relationship between the top staffs of the Allied air services, navies and armies are vital.

How the Vice-Chief of the Air Staff negotiates the specification of a future European combat aircraft in accord with the policy accepted by the Air Force Board is vital. The Navy's close working relationship with the United States and Dutch navies is also vital. This cannot be maintained by divisional general managers or by isolated staff officers.

There is a need for greater coordination and for some changes either at or just below ministerial level, but the coordination required is in the main on a two and not a three-Service basis.

For instance, the plans for weapons to destroy second and third echelon tanks of an aggressor are an Army and Air Force problem. The equipment to defeat the Atlantic submarine threat is a Navy and Air Force problem. My experience was that the necessary coordination is possible under an organization with a small staff supporting the Chief of Defence staff.

I also became convinced that the main problems of the escalating cost of equipment do not arise from lack of central organization and would be aggravated and not cured by the particular organization suggested.

Did Lord Mountbatten confuse the needs in war for unified command with the needs in peace for the continual development of the finest Armed Services in the world? A degree of clash of opinion is essential to progress.

Yours faithfully,
TRENCHARD,
House of Lords.

Room at the top

From the Right Reverend Robin Woods

Sir, It would be regrettable if the issues raised by Clifford Longley on senior appointments in the Church of England were relegated to being a matter of bureaucratic method, when the Archbishop of York would have us understand. Other factors are of greater significance.

Appointments in the 1960s and 1970s were relatively easy, as they were drawn from a much larger field of some six or seven hundred men ordained annually during the years up to the war. Thereafter the intake soon dropped by at least half, leaving a much smaller field of selection for bishops today.

Such a situation is visible in the engineering profession at the moment. The shortage of engineers in training will soon result in the absence of suitable leadership at the top. It is in the basic recruitment to the profession that the real problem lies; if quality and ability and sufficient numbers are not forthcoming then it will not be available later.

At the same time the academic world developed a demand for a succession of able men who were properly dedicated to theological teaching and research. It is now not surprising that they are sometimes reluctant to abandon that side of the churches' work in exchange for the workload and administrative demands that fall upon a diocesan bishop.

A similar situation prevails in the teaching profession looking for heads. For some of us who look increasingly to a wider intake into the ministry of the churches it may well be that the most suited to be chosen as bishops will be drawn from those who have another profession. The newly appointed Bishop of Singapore accepted a call to the non-stipendiary ministry while retaining a senior geographical consultant. After a few months he was elected bishop.

I remain, etc.
ROBIN WOODS
Torre End House,
Tisbury,
Gloucestershire.
April 3.

Sharing our heritage

From the Director of the City of Manchester Art Galleries

Sir, I was pleased to hear that Mr Kenneth Hudson (April 3) rejoices that George Stubbs' "Chester and Stag with Two Indians" now hangs safely on the walls of Manchester Art Gallery. I was mystified by his increasing difficulty in understanding why campaigns should be mounted to retain great foreign treasures, which have been here for very many years, from leaving Britain.

The fact that he believes Constable, Stubbs and Sheraton are part of his heritage, but not Rembrandt, seems rather a serious, and sad, reflection on his own breadth of culture (although he signs his letter "Administrator, European Museum of the Year Award," which may

Risks of collision on paving Bill

From Professor David Smith and others

Sir, We, the undersigned Conservative members of the Greater London Council, write to express our opposition to the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill.

This Bill provides for the general election of Greater London councillors, due in May, 1985, to be cancelled, and for the membership of the council, from that time until such time as the council is abolished, to consist of councillors who are nominated by the London boroughs.

This will result in the replacement of a directly elected Labour council by a nominated Conservative council. We find this unacceptable. Much as we personally abhor the policies of the present administration at County Hall, we believe that judgement should be passed by the electorate and not by the Government.

To turn this matter upon its head, we ask your readers to consider what would have been the reaction if the Conservatives were in control at County Hall and the present proposals were emanating from a government under the leadership of the far left.

If, as we fear, the Bill passes through the Commons, we would urge the members of the House of Lords to exercise their constitutional rights and to throw out this most improper legislation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMITH, JOHN R. MAJOR,
ROBERT MITCHELL,
DAVID AVERY, ROBERT MITCHELL,
ARTHUR ROSE,
BROOK-PATRIDGE, H. SANDFORD,
SONIA COPLAND, JEAN TATHAM,
RODNEY GENT, G. TREMBLEY.

Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.

From the Leader of the Merseyside Metropolitan County Council and others

Sir, The House of Commons is being asked this week to approve a Bill which effectively abolishes elections to the metropolitan county councils and the GLC, abolishes directly elected councillors on those councils and replaces them by nominated members. These measures are constitutionally unprecedented and represent a serious attack on democratically elected councils.

Furthermore, the logic in abolishing the elections and elected councillors for these important metropolitan councils is that the Government intend later in the year to bring in a Bill to abolish the councils themselves, replacing them by a complex mixture of appointed rate-precepting joint boards, joint committees and joint working arrangements between large numbers of district and borough councils.

Landscaping and BR

From Mr Derek Lovejoy

Sir, During the past decade there has been no improvement in the environment of British Rail alongside the permanent way. In fact, in recent years there appears to be a marked decline.

British Rail is doing good work modernising some of its major stations and also making minor landscape improvements mostly around its smaller stations. It is also conserving its listed building and structures, but this is only a very small part of the total environmental scene.

Our railways, particularly in or near towns and cities, are strewn with rubbish and civil engineering debris which are never cleared. There is no proper management of the verges, cuttings and embankments, except tree cutting in the interests of rail safety.

The vegetation is neglected and frequently destroyed by teams of unskilled men, supervised by well meaning but professionally unqualified staff. Good design and ecological skills should aim at providing the absolute minimum of maintenance which would reduce the annual autumn leaf problem.

The landscape treatment of Britain's motorways has been a credit to this country. Millions of trees have been planted and, in general, the environment is satisfactory. If it is considered desirable to landscape our motorways why is it not desirable to landscape alongside the permanent way of British Rail?

One sympathizes with British Rail inasmuch as its brief is to make the railways financially viable and money spent on the environment may seem a drain on scarce resources. Perhaps British Rail should request the Secretary of State to the Department of Transport to provide financial allowances for essential environmental purposes in the same way that Government pays for the landscape treatment of our motorways.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK LOVEJOY,
Derek Lovejoy & Partners,
Forest Dene,
Worthing,
Crawley, Sussex.

Relief on child benefit

From the Director of the Family Rights Group

Sir, Your Law Report of April 7 highlights an iniquitous anomaly in the taxation system and one which the House of Commons could put right in tomorrow's second reading of the Finance Bill. It concerns the treatment of a child's maintenance that is paid by a parent to the state.

As reported, the Court of Appeal held that a separated father whose wife claimed supplementary benefit for herself and the children, could not claim tax relief on his maintenance payments, paid direct to DHSS under a court order. The argument advanced was that maintenance counts for tax relief only if it is taxable in the hands of the recipient and the Secretary of State who received the money is not, of course, taxed on it.

The tax and benefit systems discriminate particularly harshly against poor parents whose marriage ends and whose income does not lift them and their children out of

poverty. An amendment to the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, to treat all payments for a child's maintenance in the same way, would reduce some of the injustice that exists as between rich and poor parents who are discharging their responsibility towards their separated children.

Yours faithfully,
JO TUNNARD, Director,
Family Rights Group,
6-9 Manor Gardens,
Holloway Road, N7,
April 9.

Yet, as the highly reputable management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, have shown, in what the Secretary of State himself has called a "genuinely independent" enquiry, the Government proposals will not save ratepayers money and are more likely to cost up to an extra £6m a year.

We, as leaders of the six metropolitan county councils which provide services for 11.2m people, do not claim that the present system of local government and finance is perfect. Indeed we would welcome a full and independent inquiry into these issues as a matter of urgency, as would most of the 3,000 organisations and individuals who have formally criticised the Government's proposals.

In the meantime it is surely totally wrong for Parliament to be asked now to agree the principle of abolishing democratic elections, on the basis that later in the year they might agree to approve an as yet unpublished Bill whose implications are likely to be so contentious, costly, complicated and confusing.

Yours faithfully,
K. C. COOMBS (Merseyside),
M. COOPER (Lancashire),
J. B. CLARKE (Greater Manchester),
J. GUNNELL (West Yorkshire),
G. MORGAN (West Midlands),
R. THWAITES (South Yorkshire),
As from Metropolitan House,
Liverpool,
April 4.

From Mr Richard Tracey, MP for Sarnham (Conservative)

Sir, The Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill, to be debated on Wednesday, quite rightly requires the Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils which are set for abolition to consult their borough and district councils before determining their final 1985-86 rate.

This aims at preventing possible excesses, but I fear there is another loophole which needs attention well before 1985. That is the rapid proliferation of advertising by these councils, full pages in national papers and massive street hoardings, leaflets, free newspapers and so on, amounting to propaganda in its crudest form.

The excuse is that councils have a statutory power to use a portion of their rate on "information" for their ratepayers, but surely Parliament did not have this sort of thing in mind when the legislation was passed.

Before the abuse runs to many more millions of pounds of expenditure which ratepayers can ill afford, the present Parliament must stem the flood.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TRACEY,
House of Commons,
April 6.

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The landscape treatment of Britain's motorways has been a credit to this country. Millions of trees have been planted and, in general, the environment is satisfactory. If it is considered desirable to landscape our motorways why is it not desirable to landscape alongside the permanent way of British Rail?

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Derek Lovejoy & Partners,
Forest Dene,
Worthing,
Crawley, Sussex.

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The tax and benefit systems discriminate particularly harshly against poor parents whose marriage ends and whose income does not lift them and their children out of

depressing features of urban decay. We much welcome the opportunity to escape to our nearby galleries to enjoy the few great works of art, representative of many schools and periods, that we still possess.

The Crawford picture is a glorious and rare image that encapsulates, as in amber, all the profundity of Christ's Passion. It is this little picture which galvanised the National Art-Collections Fund into offering £500,000 towards the Siense "Crucifixion" appeal and which makes the National Heritage Memorial Fund's recent decision not to support Manchester's campaign so bitterly disappointing.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY CLIFFORD, Director,
City of Manchester Art Galleries,
City Art Gallery,
Mosley Street,
Manchester.

Many of us in the regions work in great commercial and industrial cities still surrounded by sad and

Growing struggle with rent arrears

From the Director of the Church Housing Association

Sir, With the combination of high unemployment and the recent chaos of housing benefit it is not surprising that council tenants now owe £240m in rent arrears (*The Times*, March 29). The tragedy is that so many of them have never been in serious debt before, but have been pushed into it by events over which they have no control. Many elderly tenants are finding that they are in arrears with their rent for the first time in their lives.

As director of a national housing association I and my staff see these problems daily at close quarters and the problems continue. Last year we completed a new sheltered scheme for the elderly at Leicester. On August 29 the first of 26 tenants moved in. Despite phone calls, letters and visits, not one payment of housing benefit was received from the local authority. The arrears climbed to £1,595 and this week, six months later, has seen the first payment.

But the damage has been done: not to us as an organization but to the individual tenants who do not understand why they are in arrears and do not know whether all the debt will eventually be paid. If it is not (and the regulations are complicated) they may find themselves trying to pay off what now amounts to hundreds of pounds arrears out of their pensions.

This kind of experience is commonplace, worse in some parts of the country than others. The effect on the tenants can be traumatic. We have already had one attempted suicide, and the pressure on family life is immense.

Your reporter, Hugh Clayton, commented that "well managed" local authorities had lower arrears than others in areas of similar deprivation. But even then the vagaries of housing benefit can undo months of painstaking work to reduce debts.

What is needed is, first, a benefit system which is workable and which ameliorates hardship rather than causing it and, secondly, enough financial investment in housing management to deal with arrears problems quickly and effectively in the future.

It has been said that housing benefit is proving to be three times more expensive to operate than was envisaged (*The Times*, April 2). It will cost more than that before the current mess is sorted out!

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
PETER NAISH, Director,
Church Housing Association,
Welford House,
112a Shirland Road, W9,
April 2.

Value of arts subjects

From Professor M. M. Bowie and others

Sir, Universities have recently been addressing themselves to the University Grants Committee's questionnaire drawn up in response to a letter from Sir Keith Joseph. Arts faculties have been expressing their dismay at what seems the science-directed bias with which the questions were framed.

The British Academy and its president, Professor Owen Chadwick, have, in their reply to the UGC (reported in *The Times*, March 29), given voice to the growing uneasiness felt by those concerned with the fostering and teaching of the humanities.

There is grave concern that traditional arts subjects - disciplines in which so many of the nation's bankers, civil servants, executives, managers, political, religious and social leaders are trained - are being seriously undervalued and are finding themselves consequently under threat.

We, as members of the Association of University Professors of French, wish to express our support of the British Academy's stress on the importance of training young men and women to read, think and develop their critical faculties and communicative skills.

This is not an optional extra to be discarded when times are hard in favour of scientific training, but the necessary basis for a healthy, balanced and creative society. Division into two cultures and deliberate promotion of either at the expense of the other can only be damaging to both.

Yours faithfully,
M. M. BOWIE, Chairman,
K. G. MOWATERS,
Vice-chairman,
D. WILLIAMS, Hon Secretary and Treasurer,
Association of University Professors of French,
Department of French,
Queen Mary College,
Mile End Road, E1,
March 31.

Black mark

From Mr M. M. Clark
Sir, Dockers in Scotland black coal (headline, April 5). Another Government employment scheme - and who supplies the polish?
Yours faithfully,
M. M. CLARK,
University of Surrey,
Guildford,
Surrey,
April 5.

Special pleading

From Mr William G. F. Gee
Sir, The remarks by Mr Bailey and Mr Jenkins (April 3) are likely to cause high pressure in their tutors, for even without *The Times* Law Reports ignorance of the law is no excuse.
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM G. F. GEE,
4 The Avenue,
Dallington,
Northampton,
April 6.

● The future at Hanover: Page 18

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● The future survivors: Page 19

IT minister to visit Times micro finals

The Minister of Information Technology, Mr Kenneth Baker, will present prizes to the winners of the finals of The Times National Microcomputer Challenge Competition at the Holiday Inn, Marble Arch, on Wednesday next week as part of the London Festival of Computing.

The winners will be chosen from the ten regional winners of the competition, which attracted more than 500 entries from throughout the United Kingdom. Competitors were asked to provide a microcomputer project involving a novel and socially useful idea.

Judging will be going on throughout the day at the Holiday Inn, where ten finalists will be giving practical demonstrations of their projects before a panel of judges. The judges will be:

● Cecil Marks, chairman, a former president of the British Computer Society. Mr Marks was responsible for PRISM (Personal Record Information System for Management), a system adopted in the Civil Service for matching people to jobs.

● Gerald Lloyd Williams, who as regional co-ordinator of the IT Awareness Programme, is a consultant to the Department of Trade and Industry, with a close understanding of the role computers can play in business at all levels.

● Tom Hohenberg, marketing manager of Acorn Computers, who has a deep knowledge both of the practical applications of hardware and software and their business potential.

● Rod Hunt, computer manager for Times Newspapers Ltd. He has worked with computers for 20 years, starting with Esso Petroleum as programmer. He joined Times Newspapers in 1978 and has been responsible for planning and implementation of computer systems.

● John Rowland, merchandise controller, personal computers, for W H Smith, is a pioneer of mass micro selling. He signed the first contract to put the ZX81, forerunner of the Spectrum, on High Street sale. The first prize will be a full BBC microcomputer system. Second prize is a £100 W H Smith voucher for computer goods and third prize a £50 voucher.

The quality parts still to be reached

It is becoming increasingly obvious that there is an international market for the information content of the quality newspapers. Not only would this present a valuable secondary source of revenue, but would give the newspapers substantial potential over more "popular" products whose contents would contain little marketable substance in the information technology market of tomorrow.

Data bases, special financial services, cable television newspapers and even international newspapers can all be culled from the same basic source. That strategy assumes a far greater use of technology than has ever been envisaged in Britain.

Modernise or fossilise, was the cry of the Information Technology Minister, Kenneth Baker, last week to the Newspaper Society. The minister, who has for long been frustrated by the newspaper industry's reluctance to embrace its electronic revolution, absorbed many provincial papers from the Luddism exhibited by the rest of the industry. The minister's wrath was reserved for Fleet Street.

He said: "While local newspapers have been able to adopt new technology on a wider scale Fleet Street has remained embedded in another age."

In terms of its production that is true, but national newspapers unlike local ones have a potential which may never have been realised. They are the mainstay of an information industry and technology should be used to enhance that position. It is not sufficient to think simply in terms of replacing the old machinery by new electronic equivalents with cheaper overheads and fewer manpower. The industry needs a blueprint not to ensure its survival but its expansion.

Mr Baker said: "Newspapers rep-

resent one of the first industries, and certainly one of the first national industries, based on information. The technology used by many newspapers has changed only a little since the early 1950s, in spite of major technological advances in information processing. Modern computer typesetting and word processing equipment allows the rapid manipulation of information yet it is the minority of newspapers, particularly in Fleet Street, which have been able to benefit fully from this technology."

What are the benefits and what is "this technology"? Few people are unaware of the acronymy that accrues from either management or unions when discussing the introduction of technology. What benefits this technology provides and to whom is a matter of opinion and the subject of intense bargaining.

But the technology is much more than word processors. It is satellite, cable, information data banks, new products - the ingredients of expansion not contraction. Might not the reception of technology be more sympathetic if such a strategy existed?

The Financial Times, The Economist, the Thorn-EMI Datasolve computer banks and the new satellite delivered American newspaper USA Today all prove that new technology is more than new printing technology. First the Financial Times. It has become the first British example of an international newspaper. High speed telecommunication links marry London with Frankfurt where the European edition of the newspaper has been printed since 1979.

That move has been a factor in increasing the European share of the Financial Times' advertising revenue. More than 37 per cent of the company's revenue is now generated

from outside the UK compared to 17 per cent in the early 1970s.

Same day sales from various centres around the world appear to be the ambition of this newspaper group. The Financial Times is now investigating the possibility of printing in a number of locations in the United States where the initial target would be 25,000 copies a day. The news content would be generated largely in Europe and transmitted via transatlantic satellite. The Wall Street Journal has been doing the same thing in reverse by printing its European editions in The Netherlands.

The Economist, which sells more than a million copies a month and a substantial proportion in the United

Last week Kansas came on to the network and when Phoenix, Arizona, does the same later this year the continent will be covered. Television advertising keeps the product in the public eye and regular market surveys assist in tailoring the product to suit the market.

High technology is an expensive operation. The risks are in proportion to that high cost but the profits are too, if the project is a success. The Gannett group which publishes USA Today will not disclose the cost, but concedes that there has been "a substantial investment". It does not however expect the satellite newspaper to be in profit until 1987.

The same principle could be adopted by quality newspaper groups in Europe. The different languages and cultures across Europe offer less potential than would be the case if there were no such barriers. Nevertheless, international newspaper/magazine publishing has enormous potential and should be part of the new technology strategy for the industry. So should international information processing.

Film studios have realised that old films which had exhausted the circuits and the television late shows and been banished to the archives, will be given new life by cable and satellite television. Newspaper groups are slowly awakening to the fact that their archives, which can be beamed across the world in seconds to be read on a remote VDU by professor, teacher, housewife, doctor or lawyer could also be given a new lease of life.

If done properly, there is every indication that instead of producing a secondary income for the news groups it could in time be their primary source of revenue.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

States, also transmits by satellite to local printers on America's East coast.

Undoubtedly the most spectacular example of the new Electronic Age is the daily newspaper USA Today, which is specifically designed to be printed simultaneously across the continent in 26 different locations and appeal to the "travelling businessman".

Since its launch in September 1982, it has acquired 1.3 million readers. That figure is expected to rise to two million by the end of the year. It is printed in four colours - red, green, blue, yellow. The stories in the newspaper are put together at Arlington, Virginia, and the last story can be sent as late as 1.30 am. By 5 am the papers are printed locally and on their way to the breakfast tables.

How Sinclair missed its Quantum Leap

by Matthew May

The announcement by Sinclair of yet another delay in the delivery date for the first of its Quantum Leap (QL) microcomputers is likely to have been greeted with a sense of resignation by many would-be owners.

Those who ordered machines in the middle of January were initially promised delivery by the end of February, subsequently revised to the end of March and now likely to be the end of April at the earliest.

Though announcing products considerably before they can actually be purchased is common in the computer industry, Sinclair is distinguishing itself both by making a habit of it and by taking the money for them months before delivery. Sinclair's promise of a 28 day delivery was finally

dropped in February after the Advertising Standards Authority stepped in.

Many people who ordered when the QL was first announced have been busy calculating the amount of interest Sinclair has received from their payments so far and are asking the company what it is going to do about it. Its response has been to promise an unspecified "free gift". Those who have ordered by credit card, however, will not be debited until their micro arrives.

Reasons for the delay have been attributed by Sinclair to problems with completing the operating system and a shortage of its own semi-customised microchips.

These problems with the QL are seen by many as indicative of a situation where the United Kingdom is superbly at innovation and invention in this field



"We've put his name down for a Q.L..."

but somewhat less talented at mass manufacturing and marketing.

Certainly the technical specifications of this new machine are highly impressive, offering some of the features only previously available in business microcomputers - costing far more than the QL's £400. Even Japanese microcomputer manu-

facturers have been expressing amazement that Sinclair can produce such an advanced computer at the price and still make a profit.

Part of this cost reduction has been achieved by the use of Sinclair's own microdrives - a high speed tape system - that is intended to replace the need for the more expensive and conventional disc drives. Whether the microdrives will prove fast and robust enough to allow the QL to make serious inroads into the small business market remains to be seen. But interest so far has been so strong as to provide an embarrassingly large order book for a computer that has yet to see its first delivery.

The precise number of customers waiting in the pipeline is now a closely guarded secret. Sinclair's only information came in February when orders had topped 10,000 and were coming in at a rate of 500 a day. Anyone who orders a QL now will have to wait until at least July.

Some people are still sceptical about the newly promised delivery dates - City University, for example, is holding a meeting tomorrow night called: "The QL: Fact or Fiction?"

UK events

COMPEC Wales, Cardiff University, today to Thursday
Computers for Builders Exhibition, Cavendish Conference Centre, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1, April 12

Communications and Public Domain Software, Lancashire County Council Cricket Club, Old Trafford, April 14

London Computer Fair, Central Hall, Westminster, SW1, April 19, 21, 23

Personal Computer Games Show, Solihull Conference Centre, Birmingham, April 20-22

ZX Microfair, Alexandra Palace, London N22, April 28

Midland Computer Fair, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, May 4-7

Overseas
Hanover Fair, Hanover, Germany, April 4-11 (see page 18)
Videocex '84, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, April 16-18

Compiled by Personal Computer News

Support for data watchdog

The Government's plans to appoint a data protection registrar rather than an independent authority has been defended by Bryan Niblett, professor of Computer Science at University College, Swansea. He believes that a registrar would be independent in the same way as an Ombudsman or a judge, would have more flexibility than an authority and be considerably less expensive.

The formation of a data protection authority, which was recommended by Sir Norman Lindop in an official report on the subject, was rejected by the Government, causing widespread criticism.

IBM has announced Displaywrite 2, a new word processing program for its personal computer. It is based on the Textpack 4 software for the Displaywriter and is menu driven.

In addition to the usual word processing functions it includes a 100,000 word US English dictionary. Statistical tables can be produced as well as the adding, subtraction, multiplication and division of columns and rows. Results from these can be placed in both the tables and the text.

Minimum requirements to run the package are 192 kilobytes of memory and a DOS 2.10 operating

BRIEFING

system. It will be available from July for £316.

A Gray XMP computer, one of the most powerful in the world, is being used next week to play chess against international chess master David Levy. Should Mr Levy lose Gray will receive \$5,000 though so far he has not been beaten by a computer since he began playing them in 1968.

The series of four games, called the GEC Dragon Challenge, is being organised via the Computer Sciences department of Queen Mary College, London. They will take place over a transatlantic phone link with the last two games, at 11 am on April 17 and 18, being open to the public.

The Fabbri Editore publishing house, Banco di Roma and Olivetti, has launched a joint initiative to promote sales in Italy of the latter's personal computers. Fabbri, which is controlled by Fiat, the holding company of the Agnelli (Fiat) family, is distributing through newagents each week 200,000 copies of a "practical computer course" in instalments for 72 weeks.

Purchasers will be able to go with their copies and practice at Olivetti agents. At the same time Banco di Roma, one of the big state owned banks, will offer them loans, at 0.5 per cent above prime rate, of up to three million lire (£1.275) to buy the M10 model, and up to 15 million lire £5,400 for the M120

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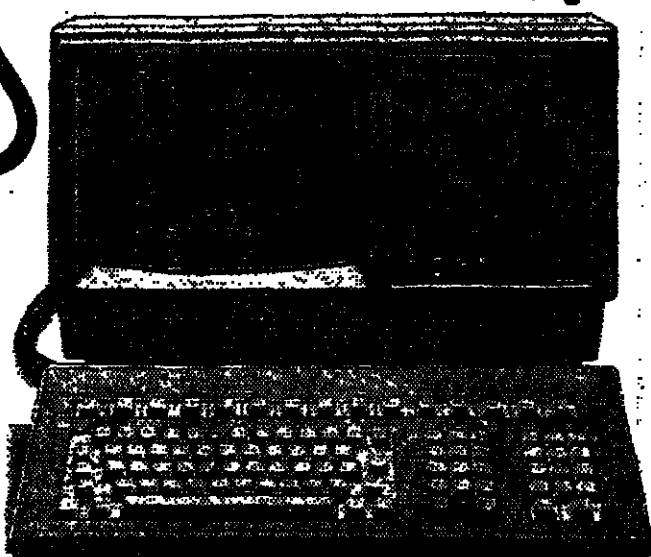
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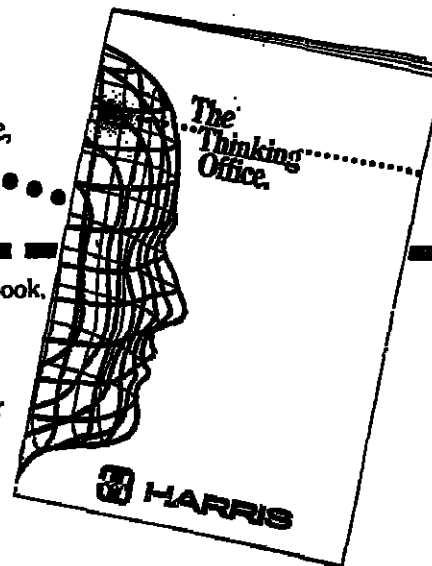
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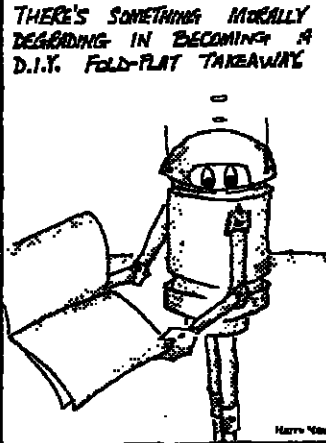
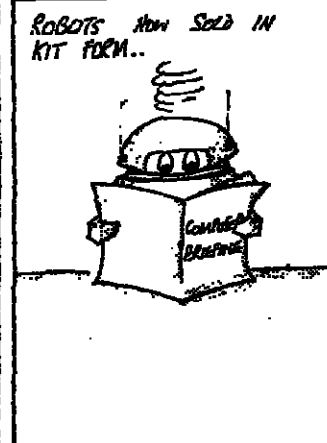
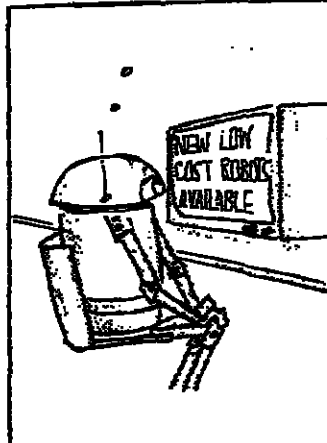
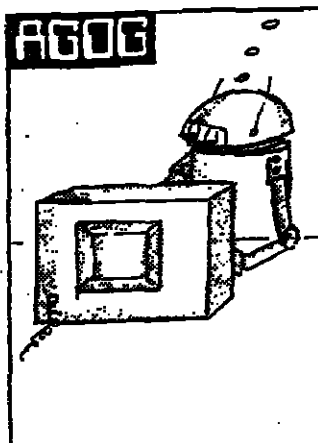
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AGB



Hanover shows an exciting future

By Frank Brown and Maggie McLenney

A 3½ inch floppy disk which can store the entire editorial content of this newspaper, is among the plethora of new products on show at this year's Hanover Fair.

This huge 23-hall show is a must for anyone wanting to keep track of trends in technology. In effect ten exhibitions in one, it has more than 6,000 exhibitors from 50 countries - the largest number ever.

Exhibitors cover virtually every facet of computing with a heavy emphasis on personal business computers - more than 150 different makes can be seen together with numerous add-on units and software packages for a wide variety of applications.

Not all the most interesting exhibits were on show. Triumph Adler had one product kept under tight security in a private room. Selected visitors, such as the German Minister for Post and Telecommunications, were able to view a combination of hardware and software which may not be released publicly for another year.

Triumph Adler has produced its first 16/32 bit micro based on Motorola's 68000 chip, and the machine runs under a version of the evolving-standard Unix operating system, with the innovation of "window" graphics and mouse cursor control, the first Unix based machine to do so.

Although some of Triumph Adler's existing micros run under MS-DOS, none of these had windows yet and the new 68000 will be the first from Triumph Adler to have Xenix.

A notable absentee from Hanover was the IBC PC Junior. Although there were plenty of personal computer look-alikes from other hardware manufacturers, including some big names. An IBM representative said that the PC Junior was unlikely to be launched in the UK or Europe before June, and then only if the so far

disappointing US sales improved.

Some of the "new" PC-compatible machines on show had a familiar look, and turned out to be equipment already available in the UK under a different label. The Philips portable P2000C, which can be linked into the micromite local area network, is the PC made by Corona Data Systems in the US and supplied by Mideltron in the UK, while the "first worldwide showing" of the Commodore PC was actually the umpteenth of the Hyperion.

"This is only a prototype - we will be adding new features such as an interface to a 9 inch screen before it appears in the

personal computers in the US this year, and a similar number in Europe, thus the market for add-ons is considerable.

Add-on units for the IBM personal computer include the Corporate Data Sciences video scroller terminal which can display a complete business balance sheet or any other document up to 170 characters and 90 lines long.

It can also display the full set of 7,310 Chinese pictogram characters, and can be programmed for any other alphabet.

Blind people may find using computers less laborious with the aid of a "talking screen" developed by Audiodata in Heidelberg. The company has built a speech synthesizer which fits into a normal keyboard.

The keyboard has two additional keys that slide vertically and horizontally, emitting groups of five sequential tones. With specially-adapted Braille machines, the user has to read serially through the Braille strip but the tones give a shortcut. An added advantage is that standard commercial software packages, such as word processing can be used.

A new floppy disk has been developed by the German firm BASF. Small enough to fit in the pocket, it has a storage capacity of one million characters and utilized a slimline drive about the size of two cigarette packs. In addition to the contents of The Times, a million characters is equivalent to 400 typewritten pages.

HANOVER REPORT

UK, probably in August or September," explained Hans-Peter Curti of Commodore's German software products division. Software could prove a difficult area for Commodore because there is no degree of compatibility between this micro and any of the others in the Commodore stable. Unlike the Commodore 64, Vic 20 or the 8000 series, the PC supports only MS-DOS, so that although IBM programs can run on it Commodore's can't.

IBM is believed to be shipping about one million

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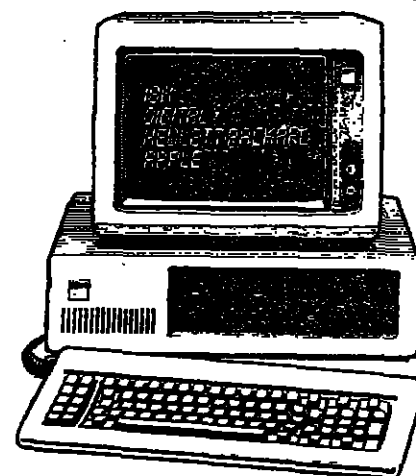
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مكتبة الأمل

A new opening for Prestel

by Geoffrey Ellis

The Prestel system gets another much needed boost with the launch today of a new service, Agrilink, aimed at farmers which offers, via Gateway, the ability to calculate such things as animal feed formula and workers wages on-screen.

Gateway, which allows subscribers to access private computer systems through Prestel terminals, has been successful in certain areas - travel agents, for example, have found it very useful in order to access the mainframe computers of tour operators or airlines for booking purposes.

Gateway is also used by the innovative electronic home banking system, Homelink, run jointly by the Nottingham Building Society and the Bank of Scotland.

It allows users to access their building society or bank account directly and electronically transfer money, pay bills and look at statements. But so far there are only 15 Gateways in use, including today's new Agrilink system, a figure far lower than originally envisaged when Gateway was originally launched.

But Prestel's current marketing approach of trying to identify specific target areas where the system can be of use seems to at last be turning the tide for a system that has long been considered the Cinderella of the information technology age and used to be unkindly described as a solution looking for a problem.

Frank Burgess, general manager of Prestel, is clearly delighted with the long awaited upsurge his service is now seeing and hopes to see Prestel moving into profit in 1985/86 with up to 100,000 terminals.

Much of Prestel's recent growth - there are currently around 40,000 terminals in use - is attributable, says Mr Burgess, to the new popularity of the service with domestic users who are attracted by the addition of such facilities as Homelink and the home computer enthusiasts' database Micronet 800.

Figures show that twelve months ago, business users accounted for 85 per cent of subscribers, while domestic users trailed along at 15 per cent. Now there is a 64/36 split.

Eighteen months ago an analysis of Prestel identified six areas of potential growth, with top priority going to the electronic message service, Mailbox, which enables a registered subscriber to deposit electronic messages and collect them "boxes" belonging to other subscribers. At present this is only available on the London based Enterprise computer, but from mid-year the facility will be countrywide.

More distant features will include the advent of Picture Prestel, a high definition service that should open up a wide range of services for mail order shopping, estate agents and others who need to show illustrations of their goods.

The little newcomer I learnt to love

DAVID HEWSON, having delved into the problems of the first-time home computer user, now turns to an unfamiliar keyboard on one of the new generation personal microcomputers

Tempus fugit. A year ago, when I first came out of the silicon closet, the home computer user was an oddity. Today, he or she is just another person on the Tube deeply engrossed in a glossy computer magazine, usually the one who used to berate you 12 months ago about what a waste of money the whole business was.

High Street stores which once sprouted a mess of incompatible keyboards, disk units and over-priced computer cassettes, now compete for the most obscure pieces of hardware and software around. I don't know what your W. H. Smith is like, but browsing in the computer section of mine is strictly for the strong-willed.

What with an army of middle-aged greyhairs finger-finger Personal Computer World as if it was the latest edition of Playboy, and coachloads of hyper-intelligent schoolkids perusing the latest offering from Melbourne House with the kind of respect usually reserved for Boy George, something has to be happening out there in the great wide world.

Pardon our smugness, o ye who are new to the faith. It is just that, having been greeted with disbelief for so long, it takes a little while to adjust to seeing one's predictions come true so quickly.

Particularly when, I suspect, we pundits got it all wrong, anyway. Someone will be playing a game of Pacman



Hewson samples the Apricot: astonishingly compact

my life a lot easier. The standard software which I shall look at in later articles, should run on virtually any of the new generation CPM or MS-DOS machines.

So what is the difference? Well, the most obvious one is design. Home computers normally look as if they have been designed by the proverbial committee, and sometimes operate that way too.

The Apricot is astonishingly compact, and really quite attractive. If Habitat ever got into computer design, this will be where they start. There are

three pastel green units - the monochrome screen, a central unit containing the twin disk drives, and a keyboard.

The basic model packs 256K of RAM and each disk, one of the new Sony 3.5 inch models which come permanently hard-wrapped in plastic, can hold 315K. By comparison, my Commodore has 64K of internal memory and stores 174K on flimsy conventional 5.25 inch disks. Oh yes, and not only is the Apricot portable, it is quite a lot smaller than my own set-up.

The physical appearance of a

computer is more important than I had realised. There are practical points - one mains plug for the Apricot instead of three for the Commodore, for instance. And those new plastic disks are a tremendous advance, sturdy and small enough to be slipped into a dusty jacket pocket if you must, a trick you would never dare with the old floppy.

But if a machine is going to occupy an important position in your home, it ought to fit in visually, and not be just practical. Enough said. I'm a fan; there'll be an Apricot in the V & A in 30 years' time.

The first difference the operator notices is the speed with which the small business machine can throw around huge amounts of program and information (and my expert acquaintances tell me that the Apricot is a little slower than some of its rivals in this respect).

The word processing package Wordstar, which I shall look at later, requires 64K memory for itself alone, yet it is up and running in a fraction of the time needed for a much smaller program on disk for the Commodore.

But we race ahead. At the moment, the newcomer sits snugly on the study table, liberating acres of previously cluttered desk space, and looking decidedly pleased with itself. Will this be the first computer never to have elicited the savage ire of a novice user?

How much room for errors in the office?

From D. Cuff, principal lecturer, operations management, Slough College of Higher Education

In an article "Shortage of skill..." (March 27) Laurence Rosen of the Alfred Marks Group is quoted as saying: "As micro packages become more user friendly, so the need increases for commands to be correctly entered. There is no room for errors, no matter how small."

This describes the current situation with respect to "user unfriendly" operating systems such as CP/M. A "user friendly" system will accept partial or mistyped instructions and either interpret them correctly, or provide assistance to the user.

From Caroline Blazer, Campaign Leader, Information Technology Unit, The Industrial Society, Carlton Stone Terrace, London SW1:

Your piece on skill shortages (March 27) spreads unnecessary gloom. The Industrial Society's

LETTERS

courses for IT Supervisors have always included sessions on the skills of training your own staff. DP and WP Supervisors, shift leaders and computer managers use training sessions to save company costs, reinforce their own leadership roles teach staff what the company needs them to do, rather than the things an outside agency thinks they need to learn, and improve company loyalty and reduce the turnover of trained staff.

From Mr Bryan Little, managing director, Amdahl (UK), Lampton Road, Hounslow:

Kevin Cahill's interesting piece on the complex structure of the mainframe computer industry (March 27th) carries an assumption that Fujitsu has taken control of the Amdahl Corporation with "52% or 53%" of the stock, following the recent sale by the Heizer Corporation of its holding.

I quite understand that there was a great deal of conflicting information issued from several sources at the time, but the fact is that the consequent Fujitsu stake in all existing Amdahl shares and warrants is 47.92%, which of course is not a controlling interest.

From R. N. Breach, Sparkford Road, Winchester:

Do computer print-outs have to waste so much paper?

Islington proves the success of computers

The UK information technology industry has now become the most inventive, productive and efficient in Europe, and win, said John Butcher, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Trade and Industry, speaking at the official opening of the London Festival of Computing.

The first event, a one day exhibition at Islington Town Hall, showed the wide range of IT based companies that are concentrated in the area with more than 150 firms listed in the trade directory.

Events this week include an "open house" at the North London community computer centre, an investment conference sponsored by the British Computer Society, a seminar on the selection of a home computer system at Highgate, and a wide variety of events at public libraries such as Sutton and Croydon. For further details of time and dates, contact the LFC Information Office, (01-734 2907.)

Who will be the survivors?

by Paul Walton

Steven Jobs believes that there will be just two personal computer corporations around by the end of this year. Predictably one is Apple, of which he is the 28-year-old chairman and cofounder. The second is IBM. But he says their machines will still get cheaper, halving in price again next year.

For most people there will be just three choices of computer, he said, "because nobody's going to write 'software for anything else.' The key will be proprietary operating systems, jealously guarded by both firms. Two out of three, claims Mr Jobs, will be from Apple - the Apple II and the Macintosh - the other is the IBM PC.

What makes these three personal computers different will all be proprietary, of course, information by the end of 1984. This means that the myriad copycat machines which work along the same lines will lose the chance to benefit from IBM or Apple's hard work, or from the software.

"We're telling people how to use the Apple II and Mac Finder operating systems to write software, but they won't be standards to be copied. I believe that IBM will huddle up its operating software this year to kill the clones.

"They'll keep MS-DOS, but you'll only be able to buy the new bits to run software from IBM. They'll either freeze other



Steven Jobs: the price of a great product

firms out of the MS-DOS software market, take the plug compatible machine suppliers to court or just keep on cutting the price," he said.

Steven Jobs has the right to be arrogant. "Apple II sold two million and is still selling after several years. The Macintosh

has notched up 40,000 sales in 70 days.

There is a lot of business sense in his arguments. "The amount of investment required here to build a really great product is staggering, say a \$100m in research to build at the right price, another \$100m to market it. Only two firms are big enough" he said.

The new technology being designed into Apple II will produce a professional personal computer for a couple of hundred pounds. It will employ high resolution colour graphics, weigh a few pounds and be truly portable.

But with the IBM PC matching Apple's billion dollar sales in half the time it took to notch them up, shouldn't he be worried? "IBM sells motherhood - service and support. They don't innovate."

"We're anticipating the sale of tens of millions of personal computers every year by the end of the decade, all of which need little assistance to use, all of which are cheap. Then IBM had better watch out."

From chip glut to famine and even IBM suffered

By Richard Sharpe

The job of the component buyer in any sizeable UK computer manufacturer has suddenly become more complex in the last few months. In the middle of last year it was a buyers' market; the big chip vendors were fighting for market share by cutting prices and offering very good delivery on both memory and logic chips.

The buyer could pick and choose between a number of rival vendors for the best price, delivery date and terms of trade. The tide turned late last year when the chip industry throughout the world began to get more orders for chips than it could supply.

As a result, with increasing demand from computer system manufacturers for the essential building blocks of their products, the delivery times got longer, prices got harder and harder and the buyer now had to shop around for the right quality.

Once buyers got the hint that crucial chips, like specialized logic chips and fast memory chips, were probably going to be in short supply, they tried to hedge their bets by placing large orders with the chip merchants.

These large orders were not based on a reliable estimate of chip demand worked out from a manufacturing plan but from past need and a hunch. Only later could a full manufacturing plan be worked out.

These orders were placed in an attempt to secure a place in a future queue. The big orders the chip vendors got rather suddenly made the fears of a chip shortage a self-fulfilling prophecy. The big orders soaked up the production capacity of the major vendors and, within a few months, the industry has gone from a chip glut to a chip famine.

Even IBM was wrong footed by the sudden famine. It had cut the price of its personal computer by some 20% for UK customers - a move, it said, caused by the economies achieved at its Scottish manufacturing plant, where the IBM Personal Computer is made for the European factory.

But the market hardly had time to react to the IBM price cut than IBM had to throttle back production of the Personal Computer because of chip shortages, leaving the dealers who had planned a big marketing push on the back of the

price cut with rather empty shelves. Availability is not the only criteria the chip buyer has to keep in mind. Reliability is an important factor. The complex processes of chip manufacture involve implanting just the right impurities in a small area of silicon to change its electrical properties.

The area in which a single circuit has to be built up and the tolerances are so fine that a small mistake in one of the production process of several thousand complex steps can lead to a bad batch of chips. The batch may not be identified as bad until the very end of the productive cycle.

Indeed, it may not be spotted by the chip maker, not all of whom test all the chips they ship out to their customers, relying on the cheaper but chancey method of selective testing.

When there is a chip shortage, buyers have to dip down the league of reliability to get the chips needed, knowing that their own chip testing routines will be stretched, by the new workload but hoping that none of the faulty ones go out in their own product.

Going for a Gold

Olympic athletes will have the advantage of a computer analysis of their performance while training, helping them to give maximum effort on the big day.

Megetek, an American manufacturer in the computer graphics industry, has installed one of its Whizzard 3355 high-res colour graphics systems at the Olympic training village in Colorado Springs, where athletes will be able to have a series of still photographs taken of their particular activity. These will then be digitised and fed into the system to allow a close examination to be made of each action.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Miller's Tale fails to convince the taxman

A corner was lifted yesterday on the byzantine talks which have been taking place between Mr Peter Miller, the recently appointed chairman of the Corporation of Lloyd's, and the Inland Revenue concerning "rollover" reinsurance policies. This has been prompted by the fact that Mr J A Huckvale, of the Inland Revenue's Special Investigations Section, has written to the 30 or so Lloyd's insurance agencies asking for relevant documents, correspondence and other information "dating back to April 6, 1974". Mr Miller has responded by writing his own letter to the same agencies, putting the Lloyd's point of view.

While the agencies involved amount to less than 15 per cent of the total of Lloyd's agencies, they account for as many as three-quarters of the "names" at Lloyd's. The peculiarity of the policies under investigation is that virtually all the premiums are intended from the start to be repaid to the syndicates which have taken out such policies. Conversely, the most that could be paid out on such policies is the accumulated value of the premiums plus interest.

Moreover, these policies have often been taken out with insurers based in tax havens. In some cases, these insurers have been wholly or partly owned by Lloyd's syndicates. The gross amount of premiums in question is at least £100m. The possible tax liability has not been calculated by Lloyd's, but it could amount to more than £50m.

For his part, Mr Miller insists that these policies are commercially legitimate and have been taken out for bona fide reasons. He does not believe that allegations of wilful default or neglect on the part of the underwriting agents could be sustained. However, the Inland Revenue's view is implicit in the fact that it is asking for documents going back 10 years. Normally, tax matters dating back further than six years cannot be raised unless there is firm evidence of neglect or default.

Mr Miller does concede that discussions are continuing "as to what constitutes acceptable reinsurance accounting arrangements." He admits: "It is likely that agreement in this area would result in the termination of certain rollover policies for the future." That amounts to an admission by the authorities at Lloyd's that all is not as it should be.

While Mr Miller is still trying to agree a method of calculating any tax bill, the Revenue's investigators have decided to go over his head and press on with their own enquiries. Clearly, a suspicion exists that material information remains to be uncovered. It is in Lloyd's interests that it be uncovered as quickly as possible.

Strong Lloyds Bank bides its time

Of all four big clearing banks Lloyd's is currently the most interesting. It is small by the standard of Barclays and National Westminster; unlike Midland it is not toying on a sea of troubles (its much advertised exposure to chill winds from South American debtor countries is much less dangerous than it appears); it is once more well led at senior executive as well as chairman level (Sir Jeremy Morse and Sir Lindsay Alexander, at Lloyds Bank International, are an outstanding pairing). In brief the bank looks geared for a major initiative in any one of the areas at present exciting the City; and yet there is no sign of any straining at the leash. Lloyd's seems to be gripped with the old-fashioned idea that business is basically about things like a proper return on capital and serving shareholders not by lip alone but a healthy and improving bottom line. No one should quarrel with that.

But Lloyd's like any other bank is alive to opportunities and it may be that it is holding back until certain matters have been clarified. For example the bank is having to wait an age for the Department of Trade to decide whether or not to refer the impasse between Lloyd's and the Royal Bank of Scotland Group to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Following the Budget tax changes affecting leasing, Lloyd's may also feel that Lloyd's & Scottish is less attractive than it was and is possibly not prepared to pay as much now as before. As far as the huge potential tax liability the bank will now incur because of the Budget (National

Westminster has said it may have to provide as much as £577m) Lloyd's is not saying much yet. It expects to have to set aside a significant part of the £612m of unprovided for deferred tax in its accounts.

Lloyd's strong capital position, disclosed in the glossy new-style report and accounts published today, means that Lloyd's will suffer less than other big banks. The capital base is also reassuring given its sizeable cross-border exposure to troubled Latin American debtors. Loans to both Mexico and Brazil are equal to 2.4 per cent of group assets of £38.4 billion and in Venezuela 1.1 per cent.

Although Lloyd's now owns one of the biggest stockbrokers in Frankfurt and has a sizeable Eurobond operation, it is the only one among the big four which has not yet forged a link with a London securities firm. Mr Pitman was giving nothing away yesterday on the bank's plans. However, he believes that the successful banks of the future will have to provide the full range of services, including trading, in securities, new issues and placing of stock.

Dual capacity makes a quiet entry

The Stock Exchange's first hesitant move towards dual capacity and negotiated commissions, got off to a predictably quiet start yesterday. Stock brokers were for the first time allowed to negotiate commissions and through international dealerships take positions when dealing in the shares of overseas companies. Few market observers, dealers, or users noticed the difference.

With the big jobbers, Akroyd & Smithers, Smith Brothers and Bisgood, Bishop not due to begin operating their international dealerships until the beginning of May because of April 30 year-ends, that is perhaps not surprising.

They expect to make quite a splash when they do enter the market. For the first time they will be able to deal with the institutions direct and for the first time the institutions will not have to pay a half penny worth of commission for dealing.

Most stock brokers which are important in overseas stocks have discussed a new commission structure with their established clients. Not surprisingly, the structures are only marginally cheaper than the old ones. The institutions were yesterday said to be behaving very reasonably about this and there was hardly any pressure for substantial commission cutting.

It remains to be seen whether this will still be true when the jobbers arrive despite their limited existing client base. Akroyd has attempted to get round this problem by setting up its international dealership in collaboration with Rowe & Pitman.

At James Capel, which has decided against setting up an international dealership, partner Mr Julian Baring was barely about to conceal his glee at the lack-lustre way in which the new system got off the ground yesterday. "We believe that investors will always want to pay a broker for getting the best price for him. We do not expect to see an awful lot of business in these international dealerships."

Tradition is against stock brokers taking positions. It was noticeable yesterday when most of those who have set up international dealerships said they regarded themselves as more of a matching operation than anything else and would not like to be holding stock for any more than an hour at a time. The jobbers are not that cautious.

Some brokers regard the international dealerships as little more than a chance to get used to negotiated commissions and dual capacity. Dealing in overseas stocks was the easiest place to introduce the new system since it has for long been a grey area of the stock exchange rule book, where commission cutting was hidden in currency transactions and where some stock brokers have for long taken short term positions.

It will be some time before it is known whether the new system is effective in helping to persuade British investors to put more of their overseas investment through British firms. It will be a much shorter time before this tentative toe in the water becomes dual capacity and negotiated commissions for all stocks and shares.

Lawson spells out strategy for dwindling oil revenues

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, yesterday spelled out in the most detailed terms yet the Government's strategy for dealing with the impact on the economy of declining North Sea oil production over the next few years.

In a typically robust speech to a Cambridge conference on energy issues, Mr Lawson dismissed what he called "the national genius" for "gloom" and said Britain should be able to take the "re-entry" problem in its stride.

The decline in oil production would, he said, be much more gradual and protracted than the period of build-up, easing transitional pressures. And the economy was now in a better position to adapt.

The North Sea growth had

been put to good use. Inflation and government borrowing had been brought down, the country had built up substantial assets abroad, and the economy was now more flexible and responsive to change.

Mr Lawson said peak oil production of around 110-130 million tonnes would probably be reached this year or next but output in 1988, around the time of the next election, would still be about 80-115 million tonnes.

Central estimates suggested that Britain would be self-sufficient in oil for the next 10 years or so and some observers had suggested the country could be self-sufficient to the end of the century, he said.

The Chancellor admitted that North Sea oil production had displaced other industrial ac-

tivity, partly by pushing up the exchange rate, and had hastened but not caused the structural decline of manufacturing.

But, he agreed, part of this shift would be reversed as production declined. He said the Government expected some return to the traditional trade pattern of a surplus in manufacturing and invisible offsetting deficits in food and raw materials. This would require a lower real exchange rate (allowing for inflation).

But he said, the industries which expanded to replace falling oil exports would not be "the same industries which people argued should be subsidised" while oil production was building up.

The interest and profits from Britain's acquisitions of over-

seas assets - some £18 billion since 1979, equivalent to more than half total government oil revenues - would also help cushion the balance of payments, he said.

Mr Lawson said that provided the Government kept public spending under control it could reduce borrowing and cut taxes in future years, despite the loss of North Sea revenues.

North Sea oil "has enabled a determined government to make somewhat less painfully than would otherwise have been the case, the vital and long overdue transition from a high inflation to a low inflation economy, from a low productivity to a higher productivity economy, from an excessively controlled to a very much freer economy", he said.

Price rises shake hopes on inflation

By Our Economics Correspondent

Government hopes of lower inflation in the coming year had a setback yesterday as official figures pointed to an acceleration of factory gate prices since the start of the year.

Manufacturers raised their prices last month by 1 per cent, pushing up the annual rate of increase to 6.4 per cent from 5.9 per cent in February, the highest since November 1982. More than a third of the results of the Budget increases in excise duties on drink and tobacco.

But the underlying increase of about 0.6 per cent, after similar rises in the two previous months, suggests intensifying pressure on prices. Since the turn of the year, factory gate prices have been rising at an annual rate of about 7.5 per cent, compared with about 5.5 per cent on average last year.

This is despite some easing of industry's fuel and raw material

MANUFACTURING PRODUCER PRICES

1980-100	Output prices (home)	Materials and fuels prices
1983 Q1	121.8	124.6
Q2	124.2	123.6
Q3	125.1	124.8
Q4	126.8	128.4
1984 Jan	129.1	133.6
Feb	128.9	134.2
Mar	130.2	133.0

Provisional Source: Department of Trade and Industry

costs, which fell last month by 0.9 per cent. Lower unit costs for industrial electricity, as seasonal heating and lighting demand declined, were partly offset by higher prices for food materials, with crops still affected by the cold weather.

In the 12 months to March industry's costs rose by 7.1 per cent, only slightly changed from 7 per cent in February, but well down from a peak of 9.6 per cent in September.

Officials expect a further fall in electricity costs this month. But Budget duty increases will again push up output prices.

Factory gate prices are not an infallible guide to what happens to prices in the shops. So far, retailers have managed to absorb the extra costs by trimming margins and relying on higher turnover to boost profits. And importers of manufactured goods, who made big profits while the pound was strong, have also kept prices down as sterling weakened.

But, with consumer demand expected to slow this year, retailers may not be willing to accept still lower margins if manufacturers raise prices more rapidly. And importers, whose margins are no longer so well-padded, are likely to respond directly to any further fall in the pound by raising their prices.

The Treasury's Budget prediction of 4.5 per cent inflation by the end of this year, declining to 4 per cent by next summer already assumes slightly higher value for sterling.

Earnings in manufacturing have risen by about 9.5 per cent over the past year, and though the impact on prices has been tempered by sharply improved productivity, the increase in output per head is expected to slow over the coming months.

Bid news raises Comet shares

By Jonathan Clare

Comet Group, the discount electrical retail chain, announced yesterday that it had received a bid approach from an unnamed suitor.

The news immediately fuelled City speculation pushing the share price up by 58p to 206p to value the company at £83.2m although this is still well below the 320p share price seen last year.

The prime candidate was said to be Mr Alec Monk's Dee

Corporation which needs another leg to broaden its base away from cash and carry retailing. Dee's stockbrokers were said to have bought 200,000 Comet shares on Friday leaving the jobbers short.

Mr O'Keefe, a director, said the company did not comment on rumours.

It was also pointed out that Mr Monk was going on holiday today.

Other likely contenders are Harris Queensway, the carpet

and furniture retailing business of Mr Phil Harris. It is busy negotiating a joint venture with Debenhams department stores.

Harris directors were yesterday in talks with Debenhams.

Sir Terence Conran's Habitat Mollereau was also linked by the market with the announcement.

But Habitat's finance director, Mr Ian Peacock, was equally quick to deny the company's involvement.

Morgan Grenfell in jobbing link-up

By William Kay, City Editor

The last unattached member of the big five London stockjobbers found a partner yesterday when Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, announced that it had reached agreement in principle to take over the jobbing firm of Pinchin Denny.

The amount of money involved is not being disclosed. But it appears from recent remarks by Lord Catto, chairman of Morgan Grenfell Holdings, that they were not prepared to pay the prices being demanded by other jobbers.

Wedd Durlacher is said to be valued by Barclays Bank at more than £100m.

The deal is being done in two stages. Morgan is injecting cash into Pinchin for working capital so that it can deal more extensively in gilt-edged stocks, in return for 29.9 per cent, the most an outsider is currently allowed to hold in a Stock Exchange firm.

But the basis for Morgan to

own 100 per cent of Pinchin is being worked out now, on the widespread assumption that the rules will be relaxed within two years. Morgan will achieve that through a mixture of cash, shares and loan stock.

This contrasts with the Wedd deal where Barclays is not expected to buy more than 75 per cent, leaving the rest with the jobbers as a performance incentive. The implication is that Pinchin will be more closely integrated with Morgan, which already has a strong dealing ability in Eurobonds.

Mr Valentine Powell, Pinchin's senior partner, said: "We were beginning to feel a bit lonely, like a swimmer in the middle of a stream watching events rush by."

Mr William Mackworth-Young, head of Morgan's merchant banking arm, said that his group had not decided whether to go into broking or how to do so.

Readicut rejects Hyman

By Our City Staff

Readicut International, the rug-knit textile company, has turned down a surprise request from Mr Joe Hyman for a seat on its board.

Mr Hyman has built up a 17 per cent stake in the company and was expected to meet Professor Roland Smith, Readicut's chairman, at the end of this month. But yesterday Professor Smith said that a letter from Mr Hyman asking for board representation had been rejected as "not acceptable to me or my board."

Mr Hyman said yesterday: "There has been so much speculation that I thought it was better if I had some board representation."

Professor Smith said in his letter: "I must make it clear to you and your advisers that your shareholding does not, of itself, justify representation on the board."

Mr Hyman, who built up the Vuyella textile group and later unsuccessfully opposed the merger of Carrington Vuyella with Vantona, believes he could develop Readicut further.

Hanson set for \$500m US bid

By Jeremy Warner

Hanson Trust is to bid \$500m (£350m) or £2.3 a share for US Industries, a diversified industrial group with sales of more than \$1 billion (£699m) a year. The American offshoot, Hanson Industries, has announced in New York.

The offer has already been rejected by an independent committee of the US Industries board, which is backing a rival management buy-out proposal worth \$2.4 a share.

Hanson Industries wanted to negotiate agreed takeover terms, but hope faded on Friday when the board persuaded Kelso and investment bank, to back the new management buy-out proposals.

This will be Hanson's third big takeover battle in a year. In February it won control of London Brick for £250m, after a bitter nine-week battle and a year ago Hanson paid a similar amount for UDS.

Mr George Hempstead, vice-president of Hanson Industries, said that although the Hanson offer was lower than the Kelso bid, it had several advantages.

He said: "What Kelso has is still only a proposal. It is subject to adequate financing and various other conditions. There are clear advantages in accepting a firm offer now."

It emerged in a letter sent to the shareholders of US Industries a week ago that Hanson wanted to make a bid worth more than the then buy-out proposals worth \$2.2 a share, but by that time the management was working on higher buy-out terms with Kelso.

Discounts active

Takeover hope fuelled activity in discount house shares yesterday, with Cater, Allen jumping 26p to 518p and others showing gains of several pence. Reports that Britannia Arrow, which has just clinched the purchase of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant banker, may have Cater Allen in its sights next were greeted with surprise at the discount house.

"We have no plans to be bought out by them," said Mr James Barclay, the chairman said. "We have talked to a lot of people but have not formed anything up."

However there is speculation in the market that several of the smaller discount houses are likely to merge eventually with larger groupings, a view shared by some senior bill brokers.

Mercantile House recently announced an agreed takeover of Alexanders, and earlier Gerard & National, the biggest among the houses, announced that it had had a bid approach.

Shares in Gerard & National were up by 15p to 329p yesterday and Union Discount, the other large discount house, rose 20p to 743p.

The need for extra capital is one of the main reasons why some of the discount houses are expected to merge eventually with other financial institutions.

Market report, page 22
Feature, page 24

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index:	1086.7 up 0.4
high 1096.7; low 1082.4	
FT Index:	867.2 up 1.8
FT Gilt:	82.97 up 0.01
FT All Shares N/A	
Bargains:	29.25
Dataseam USM Leaders	
Index:	111.26 up 0.6
New York: Dow Jones Industrial	
Average (latest):	1129.29 down 2.93
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones	
Index:	10,890.70 up 56.98

CURRENCIES

STERLING	
\$1 4315 up 40pts	
Index 80.1 up 0.3	
DM 3.7525 up 0.0050	
FF 11.53 up 0.0050	
Yen 322.75 up 0.75	
Dollar	
Index 127.0 up 0.2	
DM 2.6212 up 0.0005	
NEW YORK LATEST	
Sterling \$2.6275	
Dollar DM 1.4260	
INTERNATIONAL	
ECU 80.595739	
SDR 20.743392	

INTEREST RATES

Bank base rates 8%	
Finance houses base rate 9%	
Discount market loans week fixed 8%	
3 month interbank 8% 8 1/4%	
3 month interbank 8% 8 1/4%	
Euro-currency rates:	
3 month dollar 10% 10%	
3 month DM 5 1/4% 5 1/4%	
3 month Fr 13 1/4% 13 1/4%	
US rates	
Bank prime rate 12.00	
Fed funds 10 1/4%	
Treasury long bond 95% 95 1/4%	
ECU Fixed Rate Sterling Export	
Finance Scheme IV Average	
reference rate for interest period	
March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive:	
8.976 per cent.	

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):	
open 381.50 pm 382.40	
close 382.50 - 383.00 (£267.50)	
New York (close):	
\$381.30	
Kruggerand (per coin):	
\$384 - 395.50 (£275 - £276)	
Sovereigns (new):	
\$89.50-90.50 (£62.50-63.75)	
Excludes VAT	

Drinks group advances

Highland Distilleries, which makes The Famous Grouse whisky, has increased pretax profits for the six months to February 29, 1984, to £4,084m, up from £3,58m for the same period last year.

Tempus, page 22
● Rugby Portland Cement recommended a final dividend of 5.1p, making a total of 5.8p (5.3p for 1983). Sales were £168m (£165.2m) and pretax profits (fractionally) improved from £23.3m to £24.2m.

Tempus, page 22
● Glaxo announced record interim profits of £117.4m (£100.4m), on sales of £550m. Professor Ralph Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics, is to join the Glaxo board as a non-executive director from May 1.

Tempus, page 22

CBI survey shows fuller order books

Small businesses on the mend

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Small businesses are in the van of economic recovery, according to the latest monthly trends report by the Confederation of British Industry.

Last month, one in four of 644 businesses surveyed by the CBI reported order books above normal, rather better than the industry average.

An above normal increase in export orders was reported by 22 per cent of the companies. This suggested that small companies' export order books are at their highest level for some time, said the CBI.

Mr Alan Stote, the chairman of the CBI's Smaller Firms Council, said: "These encouraging figures are now developing

into welcome trends. Members of the Small Firms Council echo these findings, with exports to the United States showing particular strong growth."

But he added this warning: "There are still many small firms with problems, especially in the north of the country. But for a growing number there is business buoyancy now and in prospect."

A quarter of the businesses surveyed considered their total order books to be above normal. For 47 per cent, order books are at their normal level. Only 29 per cent of the businesses reported below normal levels on orders.

Output volume increases are expected during the next four months by 32 per cent of the businesses. This suggests that smaller companies' output will continue to rise at "a significant rate," says the CBI.

Only 13 per cent of the companies reported finished goods stocks to be more than adequate. About 63 per cent reported stocks to be at an adequate level. Another 10 per cent felt theirs were less than adequate.

Price rises on domestic orders are expected by 34 per cent of the businesses to rise during the next four months. But another 10 per cent expected prices to stay at present levels.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Short-term enthusiasm is missing

By Michael Clark

Share prices made a cautious start to the new three-week-long Easter account with investors unable to muster much enthusiasm about the market's short-term outlook.

Selective support benefited leading equities, but turnover was described as low with the FT Index closing at its high point for the day 1.8 up at 867.2. The FT-SE 100 also reflected the quiet start, closing 0.4 up at 1096.7.

Sentiment was helped by the full-year figures from Glaxo. The pretax profits of £117.4m were much in line with expectations although the 45 per cent increase in the dividend payment came as a pleasant surprise. The shares rose 27p to 847p.

Bowater recovered from a nervous start to close 1p lower at 310p, after 300p, still reflecting its proposed rights issue and US demerger Plessey rose 8p to 242p, but elsewhere improvements were limited to a couple of pence.

Gilts improved on the back of a firmer performance by the pound on the foreign exchange against the dollar. Prices in bonds scored early rises of up to 25p - a level they held for much of the day - while in shorts the gains were restricted to 2½ where changed.

Discount houses reflected renewed speculation of possible mergers within the sector to cope with the various changes in the City over the next few years. Dealers reported active trade in a thin market with several of the bid favourites sporting double figure gains. Cater Allen kept 27p to 518p, Gerrard & National 15p to 329p, Union Discount 20p to 743p, Alexanders Discount 5p to 570p, Clive Discount 2p to 47p, Jessel Toyne 6p to 90p.

King & Shaxson 6p to 156p, Secombe Marshall 5p to 290p, and Smith St Aubyn 3p to 63p.

National Westminster Bank's revelation that the tax changes in the Budget could cost it £550m in extra taxes came as a blow to the rest of the banking sector. NatWest lost 10p to 669p, Barclays 15p to 494p, Lloyds 15p to 597p, Midland 2p to 382p, Bank of Scotland 2p to 652p and Royal Bank of Scotland 2p to 208p.

There was renewed demand

A wine bar company which has raised £70,000 in the City opens its first branch there next month. Two more City bars will follow in the next three years. Outside investors, who have come in under the Government's business start-up scheme, have pumped in up to £2,000 each. Messrs. Barry Read, managing director of a catering design consultancy; Michel Gaudi, a caterer; and Major Randy Reid, the City of London environmental health officer, are the prime movers behind the venture.

for Commercial Union after the recent speculative flurry with the price gaining 9p to 228p as more than 2 million shares changed hands. Dealers reported increased interest from the American arbitrageurs who have been behind much of the activity lately.

Elsewhere, prices closed below their best levels of the day. General Accident was unchanged at 480p, after 483p, as was Guardian Royal Exchange on 583p and London United Investments on 203p. Minister Assets closed 2p higher at 146p after 150p and Royal Insurance hardened 1p to 566p. The expected bid for the

insurance broker Hogg Robinson again failed to materialise and the price reacted down 3p to 206p. Just six months ago the shares stood at a lowly 116p and recently attracted sell recommendations from brokers like Phillips & Drew at around the 190p on the basis that they were overpriced on a purely trading level.

Rio Tinto-Zinc raced away 15p to 694p ahead of full-year figures tomorrow. The market is looking for pretax profits of around £190m and a 10 per cent hike in the dividend to 174p. The activity in RTZ also focused attention on Tricentrol, long tipped as a possible takeover target for the mining finance group, which recovered from an early 10p fall to close unchanged at 203p. Lasmo, whose name has also been linked with RTZ, rose 3p to 306p after 293p.

Securityguard, the security and industrial cleaning group, which joined the USM last year at 133p, had been enjoying renewed support recently after optimistic comments made at the recent annual meeting. Last week, Mr Alan Baldwin, chairman, played host to a number of institutional investors at the offices of Morgan Grenfell. They appear to have come away impressed. The shares, riding at around the 123p level last month, were unchanged at 147p yesterday having been as high as 152p.

One broker has already forecast pretax profits of £850,000 in the current year compared with £500,000 last time.

Newspaper shares were a dull market reflecting the threatened boycott by City institutions of the proposed Reuter flotation this year. Associated Newspapers lost 10p to 473p, Daily

Mail Trust 'A' 15p to 805p and the ordinary a similar amount to 805p. Fleet Holdings 7p to 160p and the Liverpool Post 2p to 235p.

Biochemicals International, the group which neutralises industrial effluent, staged a long-awaited rally climbing 11p to 56p on cheap buying. The shares joined the USM at 33p and at one point hit 120p before nervous selling on reports of a poor reception in the US saw the shares hit a low of 38p last week.

Bid speculation was good for

Full-year figures are out tomorrow from French Connection, the fashion design group, which joined the USM at 123p in the autumn. The group has already forecast pretax profits of £2.8m against £800,000 but should make at least £3m. Details are also expected of the group's next step in its US expansion policy which may include a possible acquisition. The shares rose 15p to a new high of 300p.

10p rise in Spear & Jackson at 154p.

In a flat beer sector, the family controlled Mansfield Brewery was the only share to display much enthusiasm - gaining 10p to 337p. Marston, Thompson and Evershed, which has won the battle for control of Border Breweries (Wrexham), lost further ground, down 1p to 53p. Since it clinched control, its shares have fallen from 64p.

Shares of Readicent International, the textiles and carpet group, held steady at 374p as the Norwich Union Insurance Group announced it had reduced its holding in the company below the important 5 per cent level. Mr Joe Hymman, former head of Carrington

Viyella, recently announced he controls 15.6 per cent of the shares and is tipped to make a full bid shortly. Readicent has retaliated by appointing Professor Roland Smith, of House of Fraser fame, as chairman.

Ambrose Investment Trust lost ground after the news that one of its largest shareholders had sold out. Courtauld's Pension Common Investment Fund has sold 435,000 capital shares (12.1 per cent). Practical Investment Fund has bought 105,000 income shares taking its total holding to 500,000, while Gordon Trust has bought an extra 510,000 capital shares, representing 14.17 per cent of the total.

Investment clients of John Carrington & Co have built up a stake of 1.27m shares in Jos Holdings, representing 20.7 per cent of the total. Jos was unchanged on the news at 100p.

MME Facilities held steady at 45p as Best Holding, a privately owned Jersey company, announced it owns 650,000 shares, or 7 per cent. Mr Jim Raper's St Piran now owns 1.22m shares in Benjamin Priest, accounting for 7.24 per cent of the votes. Priest was unperturbed by the news and closed at 10p.

Gold shares advanced on the weaker dollar with the bullion price closing 1½ higher at \$382.75. Among the heavy-weight producers, American Gold rose 1½ to \$121¼, Buffalofontaine \$1 to \$63¼, Hartbeest \$4 to \$84¼ and Kloof \$1 to \$52 10/16.

Equity turnover on April 9 was £345.416m (31,297 bargains). The number of British and Irish shares traded was 231 million. Gilt bargains totalled 3,458.

TEMPUS

Zantac's runaway success builds Glaxo cash mountain

Glaxo kept the market waiting for its interim figures until late afternoon. The delay increased the agony for analysts who were tied to sky-high forecasts, and aware that the share price has underperformed against the market for about nine months. Glaxo's new anti-ulcerant drug, Zantac, was introduced into the US last July, and the shares, which were run up sharply ahead of the introduction by smart American money, have struggled ever since.

But the figures were worth the wait. Interim profits of £117m compare with last year's £80m, adjusted downwards to take account of new accounting procedures on currency gains. Earnings per share are up by some 56 per cent at 20.3p.

Zantac is more or less the whole story. Introduced into the US last summer, by December 1983 it accounted for 23 per cent of new ulcer prescriptions, and 18 per cent of all prescriptions for the same complaint. By February this year the picture was even more expansionary, and the respective figures had jumped to 25 per cent and 21 per cent.

Bearing in mind that the current trading range for the new drug's penetration lies somewhere between 70 per cent of new prescriptions (in Italy) and 30 per cent (in the UK), it is clear that Glaxo is poised to show aggressive profits growth.

Glaxo provides no profits profile per drug, but during 1982-83 Zantac chalked up sales of £100m. Assuming such a sales rate is sustained in original markets, and that the US accounts for around £75m of sales this year, then the drug might chip in approaching £50m profits to a group total of £260m, this year (1982-83: £192m).

The market is certainly doing similar sums. Last night, the shares finished up 27p at 847p, amid hopes of a bounce-back in the shares' relative market performance.

For long-term Glaxo watchers, however, the scale of the dividend hike provided the main eye-catching detail. At 4p, it is ahead by 45 per cent on last year, mute testimony to Glaxo's desire to reward shareholders for their loyalty, and perhaps also to the board's confusion as to how to spend its growing cash mountain.

Last year, cash and near-cash jumped around £60m to

£152m. This year, the increase could take cash holdings up to £200m.

On an historic multiple around 30, Glaxo is probably bid-proof but the temptation to use its paper, a cash sweetener, to make a substantial acquisition is bound to increase as the cash builds. Glaxo says it is aware of the problem posed by the cash, but that it has no one in mind to buy - yet.

Highland Distilleries

The steady progress which Highland Distilleries has made over the last three years continues apace, and once again it is the Famous Grouse whisky which leads the way. The brand has a constant 25 per cent of the Scottish market share but it is elsewhere that the real growth is being realized. In the last year it has increased volume sales by 25 per cent in England and Wales and even the reappearance of Johnnie Walker Red Label on the British market in November could not prevent a 13 per cent increase in the last six months.

The fortunes of Famous Grouse and Highland Distilleries are inextricably linked, with this one whisky accounting for 60 per cent of the company's profits. It is not a factor which worries the management to much as long as the brand continues to grow. With this in mind, Famous Grouse will soon be distributed in the United States for the first time. As it reaches its limit on the British market, the export markets, which still offer considerable growth potential, become natural targets for expansion.

The company is now very well off for cash, useful for financing the overseas marketing campaigns, and this has allowed Highland Distilleries to improve its pretax profit even on a reduced turnover which dropped by 2 per cent on the first six months last year.

The main increase in profit came from a reversal of £179,000 interest payable to interest received of £166,000. The net £345,000 improvement accounted for 70 per cent of the increase in profit. At the end of February, Highland Distilleries had cash of £8.7m on deposit, an increase of £6m in the six months since the year end.

The company is running at 35 per cent of operating capability. This is a great

improvement on the previous level of 25 per cent but has been achieved only because of the company's internal requirements of laying down its own stocks.

The share price closed at 113p, up 2p.

Rugby Portland

Rugby Portland have made a very creditable, if not unexpected, performance for 1983. Pretax profits came in at £24.1m, an odd million over most expectations and the final dividend of 3.1p maintains the 7.5 per cent yield that has supported the share price so staunchly over the past year.

The management has done all that has been required of it and them some. Two years ago it was faced with a domestic recession and frozen cement prices to keep out the European competitors. There was some criticism aimed at the ageing plant and labour costs, too, were viewed as high.

Since then modern plant has been incorporated with more to come on stream this year. A recent agreement cuts the workforce by 10 per cent over the next two years and internal rationalization has helped keep costs stable. Add in price increases and the fall in the value of sterling against continental currencies, keeping prices competitive, and a major improvement in profitability is on the cards.

Profit estimates range from £27m - analysts were yesterday quickly upgrading expectations, having got the 1983 figures wrong - to £28.5m this year, with more than £31m expected for 1985.

So in a period of severe competition and instability, Rugby has kept profits at records and held its nerve on capital investment.

The economic recovery is beginning, marginally, to show through in higher tonnages sold. Regrettably, Rom River continues to be a problem, partially offsetting the UK trading profit increase, but better news comes from Australia where an upturn in the second half has virtually wiped out the losses recorded in the first. America, too, is beginning to come good.

Analysts still rate the shares. At 105p yesterday, a good buy on a very strong balance sheet and an uninterrupted growth in dividend payments. Given no external disasters it is difficult to see that record being disturbed.

MONEY MARKETS

London took its cue from New York and calmly accepted the pre-weekend rise of half a point in the US Federal Reserve Board's discount rate from 8½ per cent to 9 per cent though London had to wait through much of its working day for the resumption in New York, the view had already come through that the Fed's move had been well anticipated.

So rates showed little change, and that those that did occur were mostly at the short end of the market in response to technical factors. With money proving a little more expensive than had been reckoned likely, the one-month rate was soon checked in an initial downward move, and then little happened for the rest of the day.

There was light trading in straight term deposits, while small scattered transactions in sterling certificates of deposits were mostly confined to the early part of the morning.

Local authorities were again not doing much.

Eurodollar deposits came a little easier in places in the morning, but tended a shade firmer in the afternoon when fed funds were heard in New York around 10½-6 - ¾ per cent.

For the most part, however, the fed discount rate increase was said to be less than many had feared, and the market traded quietly.

The Bank of England forecast a shortage of about £450m at the outset, but scaled down as the session progressed, revising to £425m at midday and then to £400m in the afternoon.

To relieve the situation, the bank bought £406m of bills at established intervention rates at lunchtime but did not operate in bills in the afternoon. It topped up its assistance with £25m of additional help that took the day's total up to £431m.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A better day for sterling saw it back above \$1.43 and gently improving against Continental currencies, as the dollar eased from Friday's peak, until a late surge boosted it.

The pound added 40 points to 1.4315 and its trade-weighted index added 0.3 to 80.1.

Late reaction by the dollar in recouping most of the day's losses was more of a US reaction, and most dealers expect the dollar to ease. US retail sales and M1 money

supply figures on Thursday, may also affect the dollar.

The dollar added five points to its Deutschmark value at DM2.6210 and 15 points to its French franc rate at Fr8.0665.

It was five points better against the yen at Y225.35.

Sterling gained half a penny at DM3.7525, improved half a centime on French francs at Fr11.53, and half a Dutch cent on the guilder at G4.2325. It added 75 points to its yen rate at Y322.75.

Fall in profit forecast by Petrocon

The board of Petrocon Group, based at West Byfleet, Surrey, estimates that pretax profits for last year will be not less than £700,000. This compares with 1982's £1m pretax. The board expects to recommend an unchanged total dividend of 3.75p net a share. This estimate is given with the details of the offers for Drilling Tools and an acquisition by Swire Petrocon.

● HANGER-COWIE: Cowie's offers for Hanger Investment are unconditional. Acceptances received for 90.64 per cent of the ordinary.

● BOC GROUP: Out of the BOC Group's 47,000 shareholders, over 10,500 (22 per cent of the total) elected to take the scrip alternative instead of cash on the final dividend for the year ended September 30, 1983.

● BIRMINGHAM MINT: Resolutions approving acquisition of electrical contacts business of Sheffield Smelting and increase in borrowing powers of directors were passed by shareholders.

● WAGON INDUSTRIAL: Following agreement with American Seatings, Wagon has acquired the remaining 25 per cent interest in Amisco Ltd.

● EDINBURGH SECURITIES: Dividend 0.15p (same) for year to Dec 31, 1983. Pretax loss £1.18m (loss £994,000).

This advertisement is issued in connection with the introduction of Nu-Swift Industries plc and in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any shares.

NU-SWIFT INDUSTRIES PLC

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1948, No. 643042)

Authorised	Share capital	Issued and fully paid
£		£
2,925,000	Ordinary shares of 5p each	2,200,000

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 9th April, 1984 the shareholders of the Company approved the merger with Associated Fire Protection Limited.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the admission of the above-mentioned issued Ordinary shares of the Company to the Official List. Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Eitel Statistical Services. Copies of the statistical card may be obtained during normal business hours on weekdays (excluding Saturdays and public holidays) up to and including 24th April, 1984 from:—

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MARTINI

Lagos seeks EEC aid to rebuild farming

By John Lawless

Nigeria's head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammad Buhari, is asking for EEC help to return his country to food self-sufficiency within two years.

The aim is an obvious one for a country which, until the rise in oil prices a decade ago, diverted its economic attention and resources, was a net exporter of agricultural products. The time scale laid down, however, is remarkably ambitious.

But it provides foreign companies with a good guide to the economic direction the country will take if and when it gets a standby loan of up to \$3.1 billion from the International Monetary Fund.

Foreign observers in Lagos say that manufacturing industries, starved of raw materials and spare parts because of the foreign exchange shortage, will be strictly maintained rather than developed during the next three years.

Maj-Gen Buhari is now known to have told the Common Market Commissioner for Development, Mr Edgar Pisani, who visited Lagos last week, that a plan has already been introduced to stop migration from the countryside to the cities, particularly the over-crowded capital. The "Green Revolution" of ousted President Shehu Shagari failed to stop it.

Any increased help flowing from the EEC - with aid being sought not only to boost agricultural production, but also to guide human resources and

provide storage facilities - would inevitably mean an increased role for Britain. It already provides by far the most investment in the country, and its fifth share of the import market has been increasing.

Maj-Gen Buhari - while saying that he will send shortly a special delegation to Brussels to discuss increased trade relations - nominated "an early recovery of the nation's economy and the revival of agriculture" as the top priorities of his administration. However, with the IMF demanding a devaluation of the naira to stimulate the local economy, the two aims are very much one and the same thing.

While Nigerian farmers have been smuggling their cash-crops into neighbouring countries, to get a better price, Nigeria has been forced to import traditionally basic items like palm and groundnut oil. The new government, which took power in a New Year's Eve coup, has attempted to reduce its huge and growing food import bill by making hoarding illegal and by sending special teams into stores to force them to sell at the so-called "control prices".

However, the black market price of rice has gone from 40 naira to more than 200 naira for a 50-kilogramme sack in a few months - which shows, say independent financial analysts, that Nigeria has already absorbed much of the inflationary effect that its new leaders fear will be brought about by a devaluation.

Peter Wilson-Smith looks at the case for merging the market makers

Discount houses at a premium in the City's quiet revolution

WHAT THE HOUSES ARE WORTH

	Stock market value £m	Estimated net worth £m
Alexanders	29	24
Cater Allen	36	33
Clive Discount	13.6	14.5
Gerrard & National	98	93
Fassel, Tonybee & Gillett	18.8	18.5
King & Marshall & Campion	4.6	6
Smith St. Aubyn	13.5	15
Union Discount	74	82

Source: Grenfell and Colegrave

Discount houses still provide one of the best lunches in the City and the image of the top-hatted bill brokers strolling leisurely down to the Bank of England each day is enshrined in the mythology of the square mile.

The reality of life in the discount market, save perhaps in some of the sleepier houses, has long been rather different and in recent years often traumatic. The expansion of the eligible bill market has put pressure on margins, gyrations in interest rates have thrown up opportunities but increased the risks and the revolution afoot in the City has now shattered the sanctity of the market.

Mr John Barkshire's expansive financial conglomerate Mercantile House agreed a £29m takeover in February of Alexanders, one of the most hallowed names if not one of the top performers among the houses. Shortly before, Gerrard & National, the biggest discount house, had talks which stumbled over price with an unnamed bidder, widely assumed to have been Mercantile.

These developments smartly undermined the popular notion that the Bank of England would veto a takeover of one of its protected species and highlighted the attractions of the houses to would-be predators.

"The discount houses are wide open to anyone," according to one senior bill broker. They are protected to the extent that their peculiar relationship with the Bank of England rules out the possibility of an unwelcome takeover. But they seem destined to become more and more a focus of attention in the great City shake-up.

The houses exist because the Bank of England likes to regulate the liquidity in the banking system through intermediaries rather than dealing direct with the big banks. As one Bank of England expert puts it, "the discount houses are the meat in the sandwich."

If, for instance, the banks run short of liquidity because of large tax payments to the Exchequer, they can draw on their deposits with the houses,

funnelling the shortage into the discount market. Under the present system the houses balance their own books by selling bills to the Bank of England or, as a last resort, they can borrow direct from the Bank.

The relationship between the discount houses and the Bank, a curious mixture of privilege and obligation, has historically discouraged, even prevented the houses from diversifying and expanding. They are vulnerable now because they are relatively small - the biggest is only valued at about £100m and that partly reflects takeover hopes - and strategic decisions in the past such as selling off the fledgling money brokers which have grown into the Mercantiles and Excos of today appear somewhat unfortunate with hindsight.

However, the houses still have much going for them. In their midst can be found some of the sharpest brains in the City and the best have grown and prospered, within the constraints, through nimbleness and skill in judging interest rates and putting their money where their mouth is.

For the evolving securities dealing firms now being welded together in the City, the discount houses have two great allurements. Among financial institutions they are the experts at the short-end of the securities spectrum. Secondly, they are market-makers. At present their market-making activity is confined to the £12 billion sterling bank bill market. Treasury bills and sterling and Eurodollar certificates of deposit. But they also deal in a host of other short-dated securities including gilts and, recently, floating rate notes. Their potential in the future is as primary traders and market-makers in government securities.

The two stockjobbers of real significance in the gilts market, Ackroyds and Wedds, have already been accounted for and market-making skills are at a premium in the City at a time when the huge market in government debt is on the verge of being opened up.

Once the Stock Exchange has sorted itself out, the present

system of selling government debt will change. The Bank of England will almost certainly end up dealing with a range of institutions making markets in gilts, whose capital requirements it would oversee.

The houses are already big traders in gilts and one old privilege - next-day settlement on gilts deals through the "Z" account with the Bank of England - gives them a slight edge over the other institutions. But in time this privilege will go and despite publicity over Clive Discount making a market in some short gilts, a move which its competitors praise largely for the public relations impact, they will not be able to compete effectively until the system changes.

The key is access to the Government Broker or maybe government brokers in the system of the future. The problem then for the houses is how to exploit the opportunities.

They have the market-making skills but, with a few exceptions, lack adequate capital. Smith St Aubyn amply demonstrated the problem in 1982 when it wiped out its capital base after coming unstuck in the gilts market. Although the Bank of England would not raise objections to rights issues to fund diversification into gilts, the smaller houses would still be constrained by size.

The houses also lack retail distribution networks or access to the end customers. It is unlikely that any could afford to buy a stockbroker, or would want to at today's prices. The likes of Union Discount and Gerrard & National have considered the possibility of building up their own distribution networks and, on occasion, commissions have put a few brokers on the streets, this way may be relatively easy to do.

However, the most likely future for most of the houses must be as part of wider financial groupings rather than as independents. The Bank of England, for one, seems unlikely to stand in the way.

The Bank is as wedded as ever to operating through intermediaries in the money markets because it is convenient and avoids the kind of credit assessment problems which would arise from dealing unsecured in the interbank market. However, providing conflicts of interest can be avoided, there is no real need for discount houses to be independent.

Such is the Bank's non-prescriptive, liberal attitude to the changes under way that even the possibility of a clearing bank buying a discount house is not ruled out. There could be supervisory problems relating to connected lending and there would need to be adequate safeguards around ring-fencing around the discount market activities to ensure that the bank did not steal unfair advantages and the house remained an impartial market-maker in bills. Similar problems on a smaller scale would arise from a merchant bank/discount house combination.

The necessary safeguards might make it seem a rather unattractive proposition to a clearing bank, but a possibility nonetheless.

The thrust of government policy towards the monetary system may also make it very difficult for smaller houses to rest on their laurels and remain as small bill brokers. At present the discount market is still rather contrived in that the level of capital is in effect regulated by the Bank to meet its intervention needs. Raising new capital to use in the bill market is not allowed, although the Bank would like more mergers among the smaller houses to counter the dominance of the big two whose combined market share is about 60 per cent.

At some point, however, this closed pool of capital is likely to be opened up. Eventually there is the prospect of other institutions being allowed to join the London Discount Market Association, with access to the Bank's lender of last resort facilities and capital could flow in and out of the market as market forces dictated.

Such developments may be some way off. But it is hard to see the present closed shop surviving the upheavals elsewhere. The future for the houses is one of exciting new opportunities and huge uncertainties. The problem, as one senior discount house director observes, is: "There is a very good argument for sitting tight and doing nothing at the moment. But there is also a very good argument for doing something."

APPOINTMENTS

Finance houses' chairman

Finance Houses Association: Mr Ian Miller, a general manager of United Dominions Trust, has been appointed chairman. He succeeds Mr Stuart Errington, managing director of Mercantile Credit, who has completed his two years in office. At the same time, Mr Ray Hazelhurst, chief executive of North West Securities, has become vice-Chairman of the association.

Barclays Bank: Dr David Atterton, chairman of Fosco Minsep, and Sir Douglas Weiss, former permanent secretary to the Treasury, have been appointed directors of the bank, from May 1. Dr Atterton is a director of the Bank of England and of IMI, AE and Investors in Industry Group. In view of his increasing business commitments, he has resigned as a director of Barclays Bank UK. Sir Douglas Weiss is a director of De La Rue Company and Equity and Law Life Assurance Society. It is intended that he will also be appointed to the board of Barclays Bank UK.

Trident General Insurance Company: Mrs Vyoma Nair becomes general manager and joins the board.

Barrow Hepburn Group: Mr F. H. Passey, managing director of the Perrite subsidiary, has been appointed to the parent board. Mr D. G. Woodcraft, a main board director, has been appointed divisional director of the engineering division.

James Capel & Co: Mr F. J. Fergusson has become a director.

McKechnie Brothers: These have been made within the group: McKechnie Developments: Mr W. Jones, financial director of McKechnie Chemicals, has been appointed to the board of McKechnie Developments. Mr Jones will retain his responsibilities at McKechnie Chemicals. McKechnie Metal Powders and La Cornubia SA. Mr J. Topping has also joined the board. Frederick W. Evans, Mr A. Rawlins has been appointed to the board.

Reed Paper & Board (UK): Mr E. T. B. Shilling has joined the board as technical director.

Edenspring gives Oric an overhaul

Since Edenspring Investments completed the acquisition of Oric Products International in November 1983, several changes have taken place to rationalize the production, servicing and marketing of its computer operation.

The changes include conditional purchase for £310,000 in cash of the sub-assembly plant and equipment previously subcontracted to Kenure Plastics of Feltham, Middlesex. As a result, Oric has integrated its custom-service facilities which, again, were previously subcontracted. These measures are estimated to save £60,000 a month.

Conditional contracts have been exchanged for the sale of a substantial proportion of the group's Scottish property portfolio for £641,000, which is in excess of book value.

Mr Barry Muncaster, the managing director of Oric, has been appointed joint managing director of Edenspring with Mr Peter Jones who, at the same time, becomes joint managing director of Oric.

Mr David Duguid, the chairman of Edenspring, will become chairman of Oric following the resignation of Mr John Tullis, as a director of both, to concentrate on other business interests. He will become a consultant to Oric.

Hazlewood buys two food groups

Hazlewood Foods has conditionally agreed terms for the acquisition of Beaverlac, Hull-based bakery company, and Crispa Produce.

Beaverlac made a pretax profit of £304,000 in the year to March 31, 1983, on a turnover of £1.8m. In the 10 months to February 4, profits were £445,000 on a turnover of £2.05m. Net assets at that date were £1.13m.

The consideration of £1.74m is to be satisfied by the issue of Hazlewood ordinary shares. Crispa and its related businesses earned £346,000 pretax on a turnover of £3.326m in 1983. The assets being acquired by Hazlewoods are valued at £1.34m. Certain freehold properties are also being acquired for £455,000.

NEI to buy mining firm

Northern Engineering Industries has agreed with BICC to purchase DAC, a manufacturer of intrinsically safe and flame-proof communication and control equipment for the mining industry.

The purchase includes certain designs and assets of GBS Harrison, associated with remote control and monitoring equipment also used in the mining industry. The total value of assets to be acquired is 2m.

The acquisition is in line with

Extracts from the statement by Sir Jeremy Morse, Chairman, in the 1983 Report and Accounts of Lloyds Bank.

'The world economy is looking a little better, but it is by no means out of the wood yet.'

1983 was a year of recovery for the main industrial nations and a year of progress for Lloyds Bank. The Group's profits picked up after the fall of the previous year; the pre-tax figure was £419 million, an increase of 27% over 1982, and the post-tax profits rose by 14%. These increases were achieved despite a further heavy charge of £219 million for bad and doubtful debts, reflecting the adverse trading conditions which our customers have had to face and the economic difficulties of many countries. Our current cost accounts, which make adjustments for inflation, confirm the improvement. The level of earnings allows us to increase the dividend to 28.5p, and we are also proposing a 1 for 5 bonus issue to capitalise some of our reserves.

Sovereign debt

The world economy is looking a little better, but it is by no means out of the wood yet. The recovery which began in North America has spread slowly but surely to Japan and Europe, so far without reviving inflation. The problems of sovereign debt in Latin America and elsewhere are being firmly tackled on a case-by-case basis in an exercise of unprecedented international co-operation between governments, the IMF, central banks and hundreds of commercial banks. Some East European countries are already returning to creditworthiness.

But these trends must be maintained throughout 1984 and 1985 if the world is to complete its adjustment to a lower level of inflation and to realise the longer-term benefits which that could bring. Co-operation, flexibility and a sense of shared responsibility will be no less essential than they have been since mid-1982. The US economy, in particular, has for some time presented an extraordinary combination of huge budget and trade deficits with high interest rates and a strong dollar. To move away from this pattern, without renewed instability and in such a way as to reduce rather than raise interest rates, must be a prime objective for 1984.

Fewer opportunities

Against this background, international banking has been finding fewer opportunities for syndicated cross-border lending and project finance in the developing countries, and will have to rely more on local currency operations, trade finance and investment banking.

At the same time domestic retail banking faces some formidable challenges. This affects us primarily in Britain, but also in the USA, New Zealand and parts of Latin America. In most countries banks are experiencing increased competition for deposits from government, near-banks and non-banks, and this competition tends inevitably to spread to the offering of other financial services.

Interest margins have been reduced, making it even more necessary to contain operating costs. In this situation, the development of new technologies for handling retail business offers considerable prizes if they can be successfully and profitably introduced.

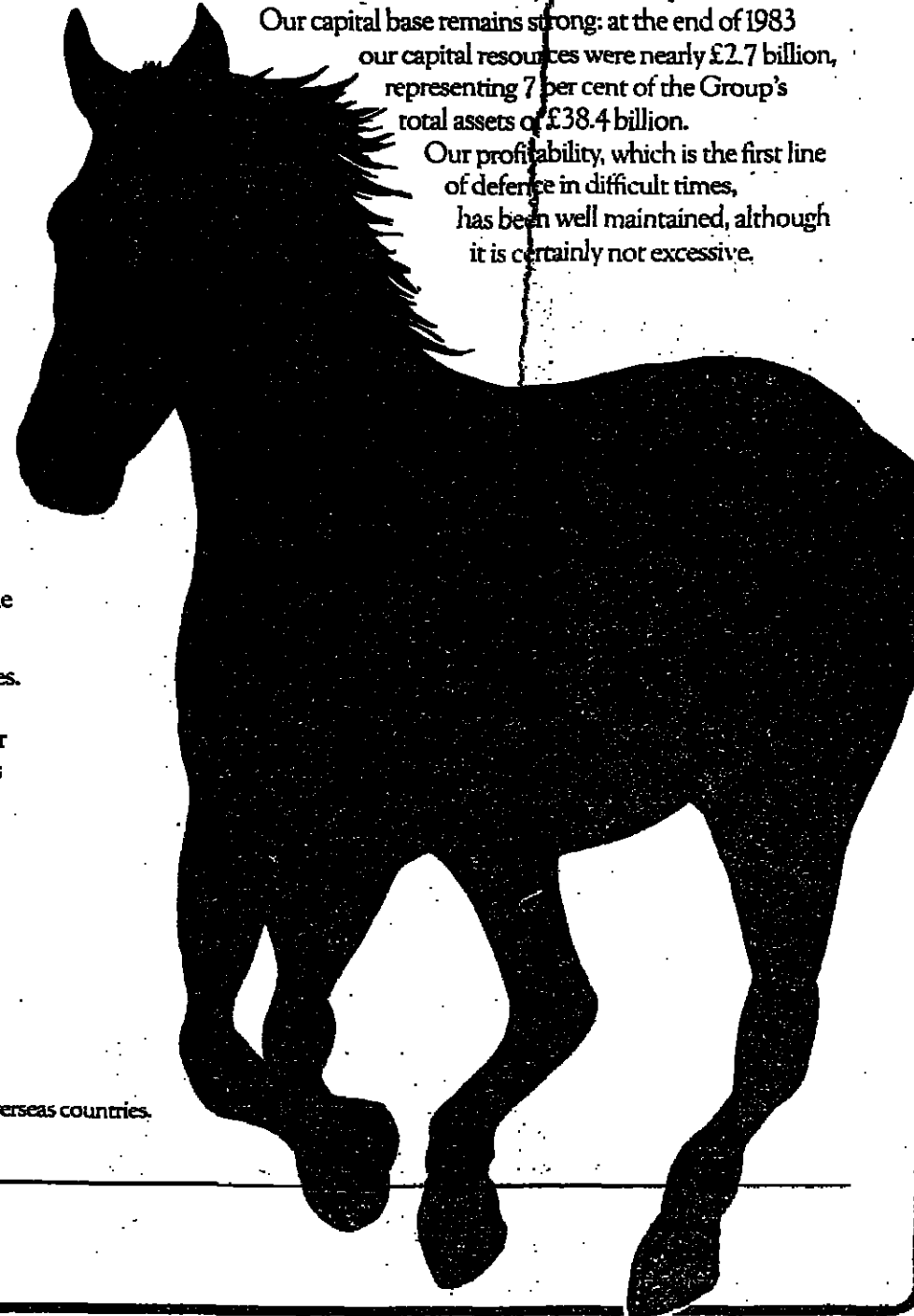
In addition to increased competition, we are seeing the breaking down of some of the barriers which used to separate different parts of the financial sector. In Britain this is affecting the securities and insurance industries as well as banking. Not surprisingly at such a time, share prices have been more than usually volatile; our own, for instance, varied during 1983 between 395p and 576p.

Profitability maintained

These challenges and problems will certainly not fade away. They will have to be resolved by banks both collectively and individually. Fortunately, I believe that we start from a relatively favourable position.

Our capital base remains strong: at the end of 1983 our capital resources were nearly £2.7 billion, representing 7 per cent of the Group's total assets of £38.4 billion.

Our profitability, which is the first line of defence in difficult times, has been well maintained, although it is certainly not excessive.



Lloyds Bank

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS

Lloyds Bank has 2,467 branches and offices in the United Kingdom and a further 519 in 47 overseas countries. It employs 53,000 people in the United Kingdom and 16,000 more abroad.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are obtainable on request from the Secretary, Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Mercer should break new ground on speedy Akeed

By Mandarin

Joe Mercer can make a successful first visit to Hamilton Park today by winning the Dechmont Maiden Stakes. Our senior jockey's total of 2,719 winners has only been bettered by Sir Gordon Richards and Lester Piggott. This morning the 49-year-old pipe-smoking stylist takes the shuttle from Heathrow to Glasgow for his attempt to fill another gap in his 34-year career.

Peter Walwyn gave Akeed only one race as a two-year-old. At Goodwood in August Sheikh Mohammed's \$100,000 yearling purchase ran fast for four furlongs behind the subsequently disqualified Bluff House. A half brother to the 1977 Cherry Hinton Stakes winner, Turkish Treasure, Akeed is reported to have been pleasing his trainer in his work at Lambourn.

Of his opponents Sir Mark Prescott's Dumbarton runner-up, Baby Boy, appears to hold the best form credentials. There are also possibilities about the north-country challenger, Queen Of Music and Mendick Adventure.

Mercer also teams up with Ragged Rascal in the Holytown Stakes. However, Charlie Nelson's gelding showed little in his only two races last season and in choosing between Bill Watt's fly runner-up, Olivian, and Euryclia, Clive Brittain's three-year-old is first preferred.

Like all six-furlong sprints, the Leech Homes Handicap poses a knotty problem for punters. At Liverpool recently, John Wilson landed the richest prize of his training career when capturing the Kallenberg Pils Trophy with Fabulous. Now the 26-year-old Motherwell garage proprietor can show his further versatility by winning this with Oyston Estates. The eight-year-old regards Hamilton as his spiritual home and will be trying for his eighth victory on the course.

In the only two-year-old race of the day, the Campsie Maiden Stakes, Majik Prince is taken to give Frank Carr his first victory in this country since his return from a successful five-year stint in Hongkong.

It may also pay to side with another course specialist, Benny's Boy, in the Robert Gore Memorial Handicap. The feature race at Fontwell Park, Charlie Moore, a Brighton car dealer, has already won three hurdle races on the figure-eight circuit with Benny's Boy, who is now out to record his sixth win over fences. Crossa, The Soma and Bujori are others with chances in an open race.

Maudrell drives to victory on Roadman

By Brian Beal

The close proximity of the Royal Artillery and the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale points-to-points on Saturday enabled both Robert Maudrell and Godfrey Maudrell to nip down the A303 from Larkhill and ride at both meetings. Fear had won the RA Maiden on Smoke Serenade, but came only second at Kingsweston where he was beaten in the first division of the corresponding event, by Genuine Flash. Maudrell was more successful having been third on Jabo, but more than paid for his petrol by winning the Restricted Open on Mr J. J. Smith's Roadman. Back at Larkhill, Lucinda Roberts was providing her husband, Roger, with a birthday present by winning on the Essex with the rewarding odds of 12-1 and beating Majenta Crescent into the bargain.

There was a mammoth entry at the Bramham Moor Point-to-Point on the 10th, the last of which was run at 7.15 after a 2.0 start. The day here was marred by a family when King Tud, the winner of a hunter chase at Sedgemoor, fell with less than a furlong to go, leaving Whiggy Goo hard in the Men's Open and broke a leg.

One of the most exciting Ladies races in the area for some time was seen at the Essex with three of the top riders involved in the finish. Clounam led for the middle part of the race, but was then headed and dropped back to third place. Clare Mair then stole up on the inside three out and although strongly challenged by Roundabout (Josie Sheppard) and River Saint (Jackie Sheppard) held the advantage to the line with a length and a half separating the three horses.

At the Belvoir there was also a high-class Ladies race. Julia Dean took over the ride from Emma Newton on Highgate Lady and rode a decisive race to win by three lengths from Whitchin and Rednaid with the winning hunter-chaser, Rugsy, well beaten.

As half the course is on land recently sold, Mollington was used for the last time on Saturday. On the

A Hollywood extravaganza to put Derby in the shade

Ever Ready's sponsorship of the Derby will set new standards of prize money in the United Kingdom in 1984. But even the total purse of around £355,000 pales against the £10m that will be on offer for the seven races during one afternoon's racing at California's Hollywood Park on Saturday, November 10.

This will be Event Day, the showpiece of the US Breeders' Cup Ltd. Next year the feature will probably move to one of the New York courses and then rotate round different courses each year. A multi-million five-year television contract with NBC to give four hours coverage of the day's racing has also been negotiated.

Where does the money come from? John R. Gaines, the racing impresario, who stands 48 stallions at his Gainesway Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, was the man who first conceived the idea of the Breeders' Cup. In order to make a stallion's progeny eligible to run in Breeders' Cup races, the owners of the stallion had to donate the price of one nomination to the horse. Virtually every flat race stallion in the United States from Northern Dancer downwards joined the scheme.

The original idea was to devote the entire income to one mammoth day's racing, but with over \$21m coming in, it was decided to spend over half the money to bolster up existing big races and still leave \$10m for Event Day.

Under the lead of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association at Newmarket, a European Breeders' Fund was then set up on similar lines. A cross-continental agreement was introduced so that any horse whose sire is registered in the EBF scheme can race in the U.S. Breeders' Cup series, and vice-versa. Again there was an estimate 100 per cent registration in Great Britain, Ireland and France, so European horses will be eligible to compete in Event Day races.

There will still be five races which

each carry a £1m purse. These comprise one two-year-old event for colts and one for fillies, each at eight-and-a-half furlongs, three races for three-year-olds and upwards, a six furlong sprint, a race at a mile and one for mares and fillies at one-and-a-quarter miles. All these will be run on dirt, except for the mile event which is on the turf track. Then comes a one-and-a-half mile turf race with a £2m purse and a £3m event over one-and-a-quarter miles.

Breeders' Cup impose that all the income must be paid out in stake money. However, when I spoke to D. C. Van Clee, Jr., Managing Director of the Breeders' Cup, he said that he hoped to attract European runners.

For safety reasons Hollywood Park is restricted to 18 starters on dirt and 14 on turf. On both types of surface 65 per cent of the starters will be determined on a points-earning system for U.S. races, leaving 35 per cent to be selected by a panel of four North American handicappers and one European handicapper.

The main fault that I find with the Event Day races from a European viewpoint, is that there is no differentiation in the percentage of "selected" horses between the dirt and the turf races, which means that there will be one fewer "selected" horse in the turf races. European trainers are unlikely to be much interested in the dirt races, but surely the more enterprising ones will be in new cash valuing their horses, even in November. Yet from North America and Europe there will be only five "selected" horses in the turf races.

Having been associated with the Washington D.C. International for some years, I have reservations whether there will be nine or more top-class North American turf horses still around by then, although to be fair Mr Van Clee thinks that there will. The last two international horses to have been won by French horses and over the past three years seven European horses and five North American horses have finished in the first four.

In order to accommodate the Breeders' Cup, the Turf Classic and the International have been advanced respectively to September 22 and October 20. The International would make a perfect stepping stone for European participation in the Event Day turf race at one and a half miles.

Peter Towers-Clark

El Gran Señor may run at Newbury

By Michael Seely

El Gran Señor, the 7-2 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, could well be seen in action at Newbury on Saturday if the ground becomes too heavy in Ireland. The alternative targets for last season's Dewhurst Stakes winner remains the Gladiateur Stakes at the Curragh the same afternoon, or the Gallahue Stakes at the Phoenix Park the following weekend. However, a spokesman for Vincent O'Brien's stable said yesterday that El Gran Señor was likely to be declared for the Greenham Stakes at tomorrow's four-day stage of declarations. And last night O'Brien himself said that no decision would be made later in the week.

Meanwhile the spotlight will first be focused on the classic fillies in the Fred Darrah Stakes at the Berkshire course on Friday. The names of Mahogany, Shoot Clear, Eljazi and Inspire figured amongst yesterday's 14 accepters.

Mahogany is 7-2 favourite for the 1,000 Guineas. There has been heavy backing all winter for Georgina Tullic's Rockfel Stakes winner and yesterday Charlie Nelson confirmed that the Tap on Wood filly was in good heart for her first start. "She's a good filly," said Michael Seely, who said that Shoot Clear was a certain runner provided that the rain stayed away. "I don't want soft ground," said the trainer.

3.45 DECHMONT MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £815; 6f) (12)

1	AKED (Maudrell) (W. Maudrell) 9-0	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
11	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	12	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

3.30 PULBOROUGH NOVICE HURDLE (E844; 2m 2f) (20)

1	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	2	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
3	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	4	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
5	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	6	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
7	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	8	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
9	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	10	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
11	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	12	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0

3.30 PULBOROUGH NOVICE HURDLE (E844; 2m 2f) (20)

1	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	2	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
3	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	4	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
5	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	6	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
7	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	8	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
9	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	10	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0
11	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0	12	FLASH (P. Maudrell) 9-0

3.45 DECHMONT MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £815; 6f) (12)

1	AKED (Maudrell) (W. Maudrell) 9-0	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
11	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	12	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.15 CAMPSIE MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o; £545; 5f) (10)

1	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	2	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
3	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	4	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
5	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	6	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
7	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	8	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
9	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	10	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0

4.15 CAMPSIE MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o; £545; 5f) (10)

1	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	2	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
3	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	4	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
5	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	6	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
7	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	8	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
9	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	10	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0

4.00 WALBORTH NOVICE CHASE (2m 2f 110yds) (10 runners)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.00 WALBORTH NOVICE CHASE (2m 2f 110yds) (10 runners)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.15 CAMPSIE MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o; £545; 5f) (10)

1	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	2	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
3	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	4	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
5	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	6	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
7	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	8	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0
9	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0	10	FAMECHICK (W. Maudrell) 9-0

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.30 ROBERT GORE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (2,775; 3m 2f 110yds) (14)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.30 ROBERT GORE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (2,775; 3m 2f 110yds) (14)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.30 ROBERT GORE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (2,775; 3m 2f 110yds) (14)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.30 ROBERT GORE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (2,775; 3m 2f 110yds) (14)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

4.30 ROBERT GORE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (2,775; 3m 2f 110yds) (14)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.30 ROBERT GORE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (2,775; 3m 2f 110yds) (14)

1	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	2	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
3	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	4	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
5	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	6	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
7	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	8	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1
9	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1	10	CHUMMY'S BEAT (C. Carr) 12-1

4.45 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o; £586; 1m 11f) (10)

1	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	2	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
3	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	4	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
5	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	6	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
7	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	8	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1
9	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1	10	MAJIK PRINCE (C. Carr) 12-1

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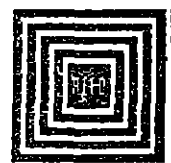
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114 Fore St, Hertford, Herts.**

The clipper prepares to sail the oceans again



Apology angers RUC chief

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary has been angered by the fact that he was not personally informed that the British Ambassador in Dublin was to apologise to the Government of the Irish Republic over an incursion by Special Branch officers into the republic.

Throughout yesterday, attempts were made in Belfast to play down any rift that might develop between Sir John Hermon, the chief constable, and officials at the Northern Ireland Office and Foreign Office.

Sir John was not told that the ambassador, Mr Alan Goodison, was personally to apologise to Dr Garret FitzGerald last Thursday after protests from the republic's Government over the operation by RUC officers in a border county. It is thought the RUC was told; but one security source said: "I would have thought it would have been courtesy for him to have known. He is, after all, the chief constable."

Some senior officers are apparently blaming officials for making an apology as part of an attempt to do nothing to harm Anglo-Irish relations in the few weeks before the New Ireland Forum reports. But the timing of Sir John's statement, issued on Saturday and admitting that RUC officers had operated in the republic, was said to have nothing to do with his anger at the events of last week.

Apparently, the force felt that, after the controversy surrounding the trial of Police Constable John Robinson in which he claimed senior officers were involved in a cover up events leading to the death of a suspected member of the Irish National Liberation Army, it was time for it to state its position clearly.

Yesterday Sir John met Mr Philip Myers, the Inspector of Constabulary, to discuss the form an inquiry into the alleged cover up will take. But no decision was taken as both men are awaiting further directions from the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is, however, thought likely that an officer from mainland Britain will head the investigation.

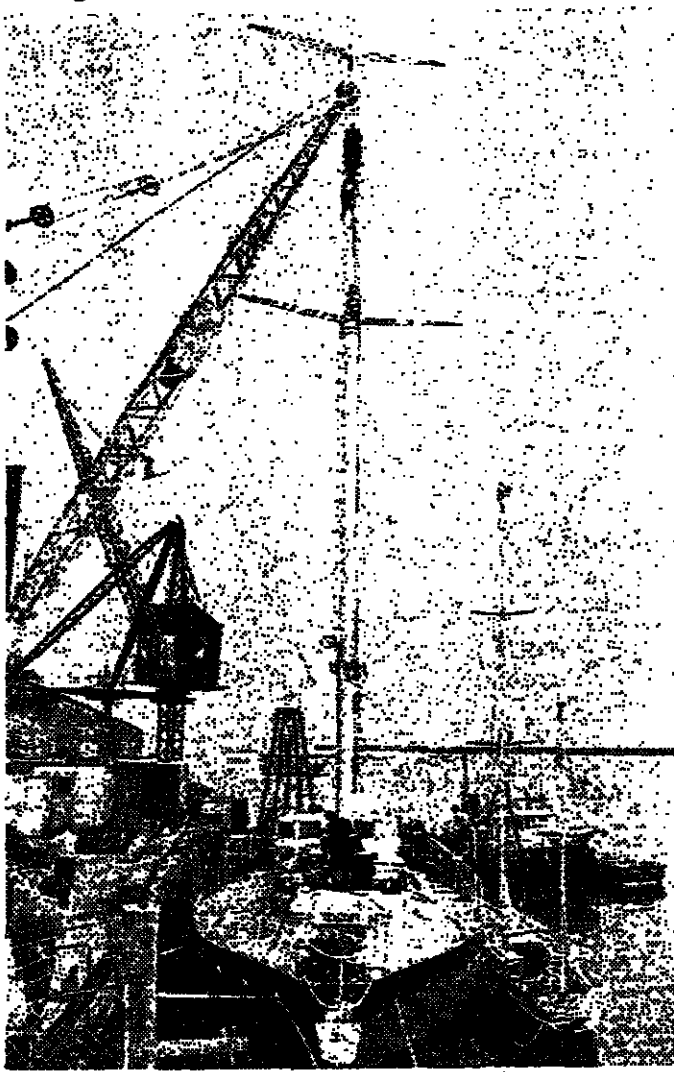
Meanwhile, Official Unionist politicians are divided on the issue of police operations in the republic. The Rev. Martin Smyth, the MP for Belfast South, said he favoured the RUC being allowed to cross into the republic on "hot pursuit" missions, and he accepted that this meant the Republic's police could conduct similar missions in Northern Ireland. However, many in the party are opposed to this type of operation, believing it would be the thin end of a wedge, leading to some form of joint security operation.

The mystery surrounding the ENLA suspects died continues with it now being known that two informers were operating to help security forces capture Dominic McGlinchey.

Eric Dale, a Protestant informer, shot dead by the INLA last May, was apparently giving assistance to the Republic's police force while another man, a former chairman of Provisional Sinn Féin in co Monaghan, was an RUC undercover agent. George Pointz fled from his home at the end of the trial of PC Robinson, was briefly in police protective custody in Armagh and is now believed to be out of the country.

His unmasking as a spy came as the Provisional IRA were about to question him about his activities but his sudden disappearance has caused considerable concern and alarm in Republican circles in the border areas.

Master class: Guinness Clipper, the first ocean-going, wind-powered cargo ship for half a century, prepares to ply the old trade route to the Caribbean, carrying car parts, food and consumer goods. The 97ft mizen-mast moves through the streets of Cowes (Photographs Harry Kerr)



Letter from Syria

Bus ride with a lying map

You could buy a plaster-cast eagle on the bus to Aleppo for just 80 pence, the perfect gift for a forgotten uncle or grandmother. Big birds, they were, with broad wings, coloured by two shouting archers who boarded the oily-old Italian bus in Damascus and tormented the 50 passengers for cash. The ticket only cost £2.80, so why not an eagle to go with it?

The Kurdish woman in front of us continued to nurse her child. An off-duty soldier from Syria's army in Lebanon gestured to the street-sellers from the bus and studied a football magazine. It was going to be a long journey.

Indeed, Dr Adel Abdul Salam's map of Syria - printed in association with the Oxford University Press - no less - made it perfectly clear just how long the passage would be. A thick blue line marked the motorway north as it climbed the Jebel Abu Ata but the passengers knew what that meant. It was 10 miles an hour, we climbed out of the plain of Damascus, the ancient bus groaning past the stone caravans and bare mountain slopes while a boy at the front turned on a powerful cassette player and bombarded his friends with cruelly distorted Arabic pop music, a monstrous chorus of sound that insinuated itself into the noise of the engine until it seemed the while bus had become some lunatic instrument.

Yet the passengers liked it. Perhaps it was because they were going home, or perhaps because the war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the government propaganda, the sulphurous white smoke still lying across Golan were all being left south behind them.

Another soldier fell asleep, over a copy of the Syrian daily *Tichrih* whose headline proclaimed the Baath Party's 37th birthday. A Syrian Army camp on the right of the road, the tanks hull-down in the sand around the compound, left the passenger unmoved.

South of Homs, we passed the Sam 5 missile base spiky with radar dishes, the big Russian rockets lying partly under canvas on lorries. But by then only the soldier who did not want to buy eagles was awake. He glanced idly at the missile base that had caused such consternation in the Pentagon and Tel Aviv, then

returned to a large and crusty sandwich of *shish taouk* which he had taken from his bag.

There were Baathist flags in Homs and a party office on the wall of a party office depicting a Syria clad in Saladin-like armour striking down an Israeli soldier with a sword. Yet the attention of the passengers was on the thick, syrupy fruit-juice that a hawk produced at the local bus station, the mixture slopping around in the bottom of a rusty metal tin.

It was four hours before the bus passed Hama, the city shining away in the west, its new car parks now as much a part of its history as its shell-scarred museums, since "events" - as Syrians still delicately refer to the slaughter of 1982 - levelled part of the old city.

The passengers slept through the lazy afternoon, past the clay beehive shaped pigeon houses of the northern villages, past moonscapes that only ended when the great, yellow stone citadel of Aleppo bounced into view through the driver's window. Further north still, the hills grew stony until there on a precipitous steep St Simeon's ruined church where the cantankerous old divine perched preposterously on a 60ft pillar for 40 years, contemplating the evils of war and the crumbling empire whose military roads still run untouched through the surrounding countryside.

Dr Adel Abdul Salam's map shows the modern road running from the church westwards through the village of Bab el-Hawa then north to the Turkish frontier above Iskanderun. But when you get to Bab el-Hawa, something is wrong. The buses stop. There is a frontier post there, and a Turkish flag, much further south than Dr Salam - allegedly in association with the Oxford University Press - would have you believe. For this part of the map is a lie. Iskanderun was once part of Syria but it has been Turkish for more than half a century. Syria - and Dr Salam - would like it back. Not now, but later maybe, when the small matter of Palestine has been settled.

So that friendly map contained the seeds of another dispute built into its gentle contours. Perhaps the passengers on that old bus should have been less apathetic.

Robert Fisk

Ambush guns used in seven killings

continued from page 1

provided all possible security commensurate with Mr Travers's wishes. There was a police patrol at the time of the shooting.

Mr Travers had sat at Belfast Magistrates' Court last month to hear an obstruction

charge involving Mr Gerry Adams, MP for West Belfast, but the hearing was adjourned when Loyalist gunmen attempted to assassinate the President of PSF during the lunchtime adjournment.

The Rev Martin Smith, official Unionist MP for South

Belfast, said yesterday that Roman Catholics must not be intimidated from holding public office because of the attack. "I would like to think there will be Roman Catholic legal people coming forward to fill the gaps that have been tragically left in the system," he said.

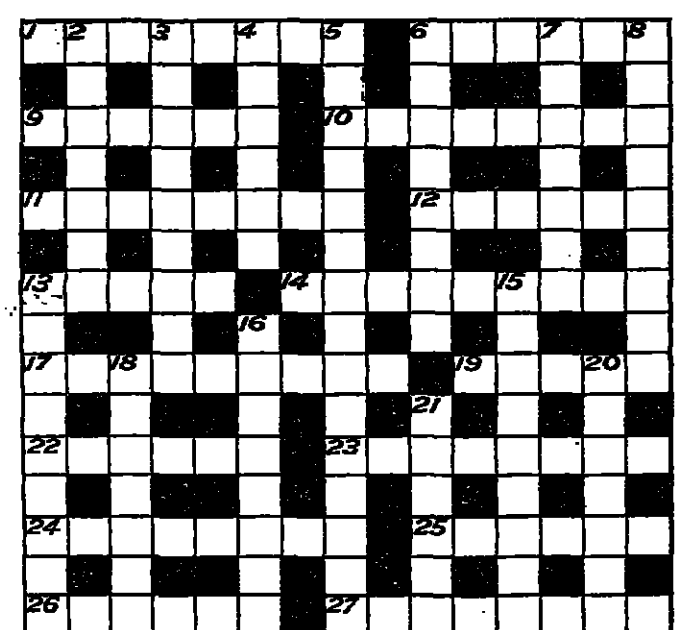
At Holy Child Primary School in Anderstown, where Miss Travers was a teacher, special prayers were said at assembly yesterday. The headmaster, Mr Terence Lacey, praised her as a "wonderful teacher" who loved the children.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh visits Woods of Windsor, 1.15.
Organ recital by Anthony Langford, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds, 1.05.
Organ recital by Philip Kenyon, St Ann's Church, Manchester, 7.30.
Concert by BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, 7.30.
Concert by Carleton Primary School, Carleton Primary School, Glenrothes, Fife, 7.30.
Talks, lectures
Wesley and the Methodists by Bruce Crofts, Banqueting Room, Guildhall, Bath, 1.10.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,401



- ACROSS**
- One of seven established by Rhodes (8).
 - Two-sided alteration to arrive at legal process (6).
 - A southern change of course, say backwards (6).
 - Taking one's pick philosophically (8).
 - Get your breath back at this point (4,4).
 - Stupid great Anglet (6).
 - Ill-felling of the best at Wimbledon? (5).
 - Profit centre reorganized with minimum trouble (9).
 - Greybeard principal has two personal assistants (9).
 - Simple advice showing how to address court (5).
 - Cannot be held by an inferior (6).
 - Lots - well three out of four - avoided conversion to this (4,4).
 - Disregard outside broadcast with violin arrangement (8).
 - Tool used to make smooth and flatter by laying on with it (6).
 - River in country may be swollen by this (6).
 - Those who occupy themselves thus are perhaps made erect (8).
- DOWN**
- Scientific qualification in our note is unexplained (7).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Archives and Antiquity

Penny Rundle, Salisbury and Wilshire Museum, The Kings House, 65 The Close, Salisbury, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Julia Margaret Cameron exhibition: John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton: Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (closed Sun). Also closed Friday 20 April to Monday 23 April (ends April 28).
Down to Earth: a national touring exhibition on soil, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicester: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Friday (ends June 21).
Highlands and Islands - recent works by Jim Nicholson: Gladstone's Land Gallery, Lawmarket, Edinburgh: Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2 to 4.30 (ends April 22).
Blenheim 4 - local artists at the City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Portsmouth: Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends May 20).
From Saskatchewan Art Board and the Canada House Cultural Centre, MacRobert Art Centre Gallery, University of Stirling, Stirling: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 29).
Terry Farrell's Pre-Raphaelite Photographs, Architectural Design Gallery, 42 Leinster Gdns: Mon to Fri 10 am to 5 pm, (until 13 April).
Helaine Blumenfeld, sculpture, and Christine v. Hutz, works on paper: Upper Gallery: Images - coloured monotypes of German expressionists by Leonard Baskin, Rear Gallery: both at Leinster Fine Art, 9 Herford Rd, Bayswater, W2, Mon to Thurs 10 to 5, Sat 11 to 3, closed Fri & Sun (until April 28).

The week's walks
Today: Ghosts of the City, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. Legal London including visit to the Old Bailey, Inns of Court, Royal Courts and London's Ghosts, Alcy and Oddities, meet Embankment Underground, 7.30. Strand - Alys and Hidden Places, meet Embankment Underground, 11. Belgrave, Upstairs and Downstairs, meet Sloane Square Underground, 2. Mysterious Interiors of Hidden London, meet Holborn Underground, (Kingsway exit), 9.50. (also Wed and Thurs).
Tomorrow: A Journey through Dickens' London, meet Embankment Underground, 11.
Thursday: Royal London - Palaces and People, Green Park Underground, 1. Inside the London of Shakespeare and Pepsy, meet Temple Underground, 2.
Friday: Streets paved with gold includes a visit to the London Stock Exchange, London Futures Money Market, Guildhall, meet Fenchurch Street Station (full day tour), 11. In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes (ends in a pub), meet Embankment Underground, 11. An Historic Pub Walk - Jack the Ripper Haunts, meet Aldgate Underground, 7.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Emergency debate on policing in connection with the miners' strike. Finance (2.30) Bill, second reading.
Lords (2.30): Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment Bill, report. Debate on the cost of drugs.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending April 1.

- ITV**
- Duty Free, Yorkshire, 18.35m
 - Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 18.35m
 - Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 18.35m
 - Call Me A Fool, ITV, 14.40m
 - The Price is Right, Central, 14.25m
 - Live From Her Majesty's, BBC, 13.10m
 - Mitig Cop From Prison, ITV at 10.10m
 - Dynasty, 9.10m
 - This Is Your Life, Thames, 12.65m
 - T-J Hooker, ITV, 12.65m

BBC 1

- Dallas, 11.55m
- Meaning From, 11.55m
- A Question of Sport, 11.55m
- That's Life, 11.25m
- The Grand National, 10.60m
- World Figure Skating Gala, 9.55m
- Dynasty, 9.10m
- A Show in the Dark, 9.55m
- The International Project, 9.10m
- The International Project, 9.10m

Channel 4

- Brookside (Wed), 2.30m
- Brookside (Tue), 2.30m
- Treasure Hunt, 2.10m
- Comic Strip Presents, 2.00m
- The World at War, 1.30m
- Newsnight, 1.25m
- The Lady in the Lake, 1.75m
- Simon, 1.55m
- Wedding, 1.35m

In Wales

- Pilot Y Cwm, BBC, 7.00m
- 2nd of April, 6.00m
- Deafening Canyons, BBC, 6.00m
- Phagor Hyl Gwynedd, BBC, 5.40m
- Newsnight, 1.25m
- Newsnight, 1.25m
- Newsnight, 1.25m
- Newsnight, 1.25m
- Newsnight, 1.25m
- Newsnight, 1.25m

Breakfast Television

The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (both figures in parentheses showing the reach - the number of people who viewed for at least eight minutes).

BBC 1: Breakfast Time, Mon to Fri 1.5m (5.1m).
TV-am: Good Morning Britain, Mon to Fri 1.2m (6.3m). Sat 1.5m (4.1m).
Breakfasters: Audience Research Board.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.63	1.55
Austria Sch	27.60	26.80
Belgium Fr	81.75	77.75
Canada \$	1.27	1.21
Denmark Kr	14.30	13.60
Finland Mk	8.34	7.96
France Fr	11.87	11.37
Germany DM	3.56	3.48
Greece Dr	157.00	147.00
Hong Kong \$	11.54	10.94
Ireland £	1.27	1.21
Italy Lira	2390.00	2290.00
Japan Yen	337.00	321.00
Netherlands Gld	4.38	4.16
Norway Kr	11.30	10.70
Portugal Esc	195.00	185.00
South Africa Rd	1.95	1.81
Spain Ptas	217.00	206.00
Sweden Kr	11.61	11.03
Switzerland Fr	3.23	3.06
US \$	1.47	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	184.00	174.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Retail Price Index: 344.0. London: The FT index closed up 1.8 at 867.2.

Roads

Wales and West: A361: Temporary traffic signals NE of Taunton, Somerset. A381/385: Temporary traffic lights at junction Brutus/Bridgetown Hill, Torina. M4: Lane closure for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge: both carriageways affected.
Midlands: A456: Single-line traffic at junction A456 at Woodhouse, Shropshire, temporary signals. A6: Leicester - Derby road closed at Kegworth, diversion. M5: Contrail between junction 3 (Birmingham) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove), Birmingham.
North: A562: Single-line traffic at Sanky Brook, Warrington. M62: Nearside lanes and hard shoulders closed between junctions 25 and 26. West Yorkshire, until April 12. Also a eastbound carriageway and centre lanes closed between junctions 26 and 27 until April 12.
Scotland: A5: Single-line traffic control at Lochearnhead. Perthshire: A82: Single-line traffic with lights east of Balcubish Bridge. Argyll: care required. A737: Road reconstruction W of 8789 junction, Renfrewshire. Eastbound carriageway closed, diversion operates, John ston.

Anniversaries

Births: Samuel Hahnemann, founder of homeopathy, Meissen, Germany, 1755; William Hazlitt, Maidstone, Kent, 1778; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, Nottingham, 1829; Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (new style April 22), Simbirsk (Ulyanovsk), 1870. Deaths: Jean Dumas, pioneer of organic chemistry, Cannes, 1884; Algerian Charles Swinburne, London, 1909; Auguste Lumiere, pioneer of cinema photography, Lyon, 1954.

The papers

Score maybe hundreds of people are to be offered expensive hotel breaks - by courtesy of the taxpayer, the Daily Star points out. The families live alongside the Tamworth section of the new M42, about to be built in Warwickshire. They were promised their houses would be soundproofed before construction work began, the paper says. "That was in the mid-1970s. Today, as the bulldozers prepare to rattle in the houses are still untouched. Instead, the residents are being offered hotel rooms of their choice to get away from the noise. And cost limit has been put on the getaway breaks. A Department of Transport spokesman blandly says 'these things take time.' The paper asks 'do you hear the muffled echo of a whining clanger being dropped?' And do you think we'll ever learn who dropped it, or how, or why?"

Justice is supposed to be blind, not blinkered, the Daily Mirror says. "The justice handed out to Sarah Tisdall was blinkered and blind only because a minister had stamped that word on it. Her action was disloyal. She deserved to be fired for it. But she does not deserve to spend six months in prison."

Weather forecast

Frontal troughs of low pressure will cross many districts, as a ridge of high pressure over Southern parts gives way.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Angles, E Midlands: Rain in places at first, sunny intervals developing; wind, variable light; max temp 10C (50F).
E, SW, central N England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Heavily dry and bright with variable, light; max temp 11C (52F).
N Wales, NW, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Bright at first, becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind SW, light, increasing moderate; max temp 9-10C (48-50F).
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Rain or drizzle at times, hill fog, clearer with showers, windy on hills, later wind SW, moderate, increasing fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 7-9C (45-48F) colder inland.

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday

Showers spreading to all parts. Continuing windy in N at times.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, etc.

Variable, mainly NW, light or moderate; sea, smooth or slight. S. George's Channel: Wind, W, light, becoming moderate or fresh; sea, smooth or becoming moderate. Irish Sea: Wind, SW, fresh, locally strong; Irish Sea: Wind, SE, moderate, becoming rough in N.

Full Moon: April 15.

Sun rises: 6.16 am Sun sets: 7.49 pm
Moon rises: 4.23 am Moon sets: 12.23 pm

Lighting-up time

London 5.19 pm to 5.43 am
Bristol 5.29 pm to 5.53 am
Edinburgh 5.40 pm to 6.04 am
Manchester 5.51 pm to 6.15 am
Preston 5.59 pm to 6.23 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 8am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 65%. Rain: 0.2 in. Sun: 34% to 6pm, 1.5h. Bar: 1013.5 mb. Wind: 10 to 15 mph. Visibility: 10 to 15 miles. Clouds: 10 to 15%.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Easter, 13C (55F). Lowest day temp: St Albans, 10C (50F). (45F). Highest night temp: Brixton, 8C (46F). Lowest night temp: Brixton, 4C (39F). 0.1 inch highest sunshine: Portsmouth, 10.3h.

Abroad

Abroad: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

Around Britain

Around Britain: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

Lighting-up time

Lighting-up time: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

Weather forecast

Weather forecast: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

Weather forecast

Weather forecast: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

Weather forecast

Weather forecast: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

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Weather forecast

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Weather forecast

Weather forecast: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars

Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts are indicated by lines with symbols. Symbols are on an advancing side.

NOON TODAY

NOON TODAY: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

High tides

High tides: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

High tides

High tides: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.

High tides

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High tides

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High tides

High tides: C, cloud: 1, fog: 1, rain: 1, snow: 1.